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Manuscript No.: 12413 **Scientific Editor:** Gong XM **Column:** Retrospective Study

Date: February 2, 2015

The primary responsibilities of scientific editors include carefully checking the entire manuscript and all accompanying materials for:

- errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation and wording
- suitability of tables, figures, figure data and legends
- accurate and appropriate presentation of symbols (e.g. +, -, ×, ÷, %, ∗) in tables and figures
- complete and comprehensive revision of the manuscript according to the reviewers' comments

Item no.	Specific items for verification	Comments
1	Fixed headings are copied.	√YES ☐NO
2	The title concisely summarizes the main topic of the study and is not too long (no more than 12 words). The use of words such as 'exploration', 'research', 'analysis', 'observation', and 'investigation' is avoided. The title does not start with 'The' or Arabic numbers, and does not include uncommon abbreviations.	√YES ☐NO
3	A running title is provided (no more than 6 words).	√YES ☐NO
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6	The 'Supported by' statement describes the source(s) of financial support, including identification number(s) and program ID(s) if available, and contains no spelling errors.	☐YES √NO
7	The 'Author contributions' passage describes the specific contributions made by each author, using the following format (full family (sur)name and abbreviated first and middles names): Wang CL and Liang L contributed equally to this work; Wang CL, Liang L, Fu JF, Zou CC, Hong F and Wu XM designed the research study; Wang CL, Zou CC, Hong F and Wu XM performed the research; Xue JZ and Lu JR contributed new reagents and analytic tools; Wang CL, Liang L and Fu JF analyzed the data; and Wang CL, Liang L and Fu JF wrote the manuscript.	√YES ☐NO
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11	The Abstract section is formatted according to the article-specific style (structure *vs* unstructured) and word count thresholds, as follows: Commentary, Frontier, Diagnostic Advances, Medical Ethics, Minireview, Review, Therapeutics Advances and Topic Highlight: Non-structured abstract that is no less than 200 words. Field of Vision, Case Report and Letter to the Editor: Non-structured abstract that is no less than 150 words. Original Articles (Basic Study, Case Control Study, Clinical Trials Study, Observational Study, Prospective Study, Randomized Clinical Trial, Randomized Controlled Trial, Retrospective Cohort Study, and Retrospective Study): Structured abstract with subsections for AIM (no more than 20 words), METHODS (no less than 140 words),	√YES ☐NO

	RESULTS (no less than 150 words), and CONCLUSION (no more than 26 words). Evidence-Based Medicine, Meta-Analysis, Scientometrics and Systematic Reviews: Structured abstract with subsections for AIM (no more than 20 words), METHODS (no less than 80 words), RESULTS (no less than 120 words), and CONCLUSION (no more than 26 words).	
12	The 'Keywords' list 5-10 keywords that reflect the main content of the study. The first letter of each keyword is capitalized, and each keyword is separated by a semicolon.	√YES □NO
13	The authors' full family (sur)names followed by abbreviated first/middle names in the bibliography information are consistent with those provided on both the title page and the signed BPG Copyright Assignment form.	√YES □NO
14	The 'INTRODUCTION' section clearly describes the relevant background information for the study. Only the most relevant and current (within the past 5 years) literature is cited, with the exception of rare instances of seminal literature citations. All technical terms and/or abbreviations are explained and/or defined, with the full name of abbreviations given upon first appearance in the text and the abbreviation presented in parentheses (i.e. "…computed tomography (CT)"). First-person pronouns (e.g. 'I', 'we') are used appropriately to clearly indicate the work performed by the author(s). When weaknesses of previous studies are described in the text to highlight the innovations related to the current study, the information is presented carefully.	√YES □NO
15	The 'MATERIALS AND METHODS' section clearly and accurately describes all materials and methods used to obtain the data presented in the article and is adequate for a reader to repeat the study.	√YES □NO
16	The 'RESULTS' section concisely describes the observatory and experimental results. Representative data and data that have scientific significance are emphasized. Data is presented in either the text, a table or figure (i.e. chart, diagram, graph or image), but is not repeated among each. The information in tables and figures clearly describes the trends, meaning, and inferences. Results described in textual form are accurate, concise and clear.	√YES □NO
17	The order and numerical labeling of tables and figures is consistent with their appearance and presentation in the text. Symbols in tables (e.g., +, -, ×, ÷, *) correctly correspond to the definitions in the footnotes. Only one legend is provided for each multi-panel figure consisting of color graphs, black and white graphs, or line graphs that depicts data of the same theme. For example: **Figure 1** Pathological changes in atrophic gastritis tissue before and after treatment. A: …; B: …; C: …; D: …; E: …; F: ….	√YES □NO
18	Split pictures include flow charts, line graphs, histograms, and graphs including text. Unsplit pictures include meta-analysis diagrams, PCR amplification curves, and survival curves.	√YES □NO
19	Statistical symbols are accurate. Statistical significance is expressed as $^{a}P<0.05$, $^{b}P<0.01$ ($P>0.05$ usually does not need to be denoted). If there are other series of P values, $^{c}P<0.05$ and $^{d}P<0.01$ are used, and a third series of P values is expressed as $^{e}P<0.05$ and $^{f}P<0.01$. Statistical data is expressed as mean ± SD or mean ± SE.	√YES □NO
20	The 'DISCUSSION' section (1) describes the main purpose and hypothesis of the study, (2) summarizes the most important results, (3) illustrates and explains the results (but does not simply repeat the data) and draws conclusions or inferences based on the results, (4) points out the limitations of the study and their impact on the results, as well as proposes further advice on future research topic(s) or direction(s), and (5) describes the theoretical significance and practical value of the findings.	√YES □NO
21	The 'ACKNOWLEDGMENTS' section expresses gratitude to any individuals or organizations for technical support (i.e. providing instrumentation, equipment or experimental materials, and/or assistance in experimental work), non-technical services (i.e. useful inspiration, suggestions, guidance, or review), and/or any other auxiliary work.	□YES √NO
22	The 'COMMENTS' section provides comments for original articles and brief articles in accordance with the specified format. 'Science News' is written for original articles in accordance with the specified format.	√YES □NO
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	languages are listed according to indexing information retrieved from Google. Book references are presented with all the information relevant to the electronic version.		
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26	The number of cited references is appropriate for the article type: Commentary: no less than 50 Review: no less than 100 Article: no less than 30/26 Case Reports and Letter to the Editor: no less than 1		√YES □NO
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