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Manuscript No.: 13150 **Scientific Editor:** Ma YJ **Column: RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY**

Date: 2014-10-23

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- 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
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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, Review, Topic Highlight, Observation, Guidelines for Basic Research, and Guidelines for Clinical Practice: 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: Structured abstract with subsections for AIM (no more than 20 words), METHODS (no less than 140 words), RESULTS (no less than 150 words), and CONCLUSION (no more than 26 words). Brief articles: Structured abstract with subsections for AIM (no more than 20 words),	√ YES ☐NO

	METHODS (no less than 80 words), RESULTS (no less than 120 words), and CONCLUSION (no more than 26 words).	
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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
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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
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