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315-321 Lockhart Road,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong, China

ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5098

Title: A Meta-Analysis of Barrett's Esophagus in China

Reviewer code: 02545225

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-08-15 08:03

Date reviewed: 2013-08-16 08:02

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comments to the Authors The present meta-analysis investigated the characteristics of Barrett's esophagus in China, which was diagnosed according to the latest consensus consistent with Western criteria. The authors appropriately established the inclusion and exclusion criteria and analyzed the data in the selected reports well. Based on an analysis of 3,873 patients with Barrett's esophagus, the authors concluded that the average age of BE patients in China is lower than that observed in the West, while the rate of endoscopic detection and the incidence of BE cancer in China are much lower than those observed in the West. While this study is very significant, I recommend that some points be revised. Minor comments 1. It has been reported that Helicobacter pylori and the eradication of this infection is associated with the etiology of Barrett's esophagus. Please mention the status of H. pylori infection in the cases of the selected manuscripts or include a comment concerning the relationship between H. pylori infection and Barrett's esophagus in the Discussion section if data regarding H. pylori infection are not available. 2. Please describe the total number of patients who underwent endoscopic examination and the incidence (%) of Barrett's esophagus in each report listed in Table 1.



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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5098

Title: A Meta-Analysis of Barrett's Esophagus in China

Reviewer code: 02570565

Science editor: Qi, Yuan

Date sent for review: 2013-08-15 08:03

Date reviewed: 2013-08-16 08:57

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)		<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors report the results of a meta-analysis of the Chinese and world literature on the prevalence of Barrett's esophagus in China. They identified 69 publications that reported on 3873 cases of Barrett's esophagus; the prevalence of Barrett's esophagus was 1% and they report a cancer incidence of 1.418 per 1,000 patient years. Comments to Authors Major Comments 1. Introduction and Methods: The diagnosis of Barrett's esophagus conformed to the standard of the Chinese Medical Association - to what extent does this confer comparability with the diagnosis of Barrett's esophagus in western populations? If the definitions are different, it may not be appropriate to compare the epidemiology of BE in China and the West. It would be helpful to show a comparison of the Chinese and Western definitions of Barrett's esophagus to allow evaluation of the meta-analysis results. 2. How did the authors ensure that the included publications adhered to the Chinese definition of Barrett's esophagus? 3. Results: The mean follow up duration is very short (The Cancer Incidence of BE): 1.1 years. It is difficult to be sure, therefore, that the detected cancers were not 'prevalent' cases - that is they were present (& perhaps missed) at the time when BE was diagnosed. Thus, it is difficult to interpret the reported cancer incidence of 1.418 per 1000 person years, based on 2 cases with a mean follow-up period of little more than a year. 4. Is the search strategy of "Barrett" adequate to identify all publications? Should the search strategy also include other terms, such as, for example, "intestinal metaplasia" AND "esophagus", to ensure that no publications are missed. 5. Were there any geographical variations in the prevalence of Barrett's esophagus? 6. A funnel plot would be informative to determine whether there is a publication bias with respect to the prevalence of Barrett's esophagus. 7. If possible, a summary table of the reasons for endoscopy in the different studies would be helpful (surveillance, health check, symptoms, etc). 8. It would be helpful for the



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authors to report the 95% confidence intervals for their estimates of the prevalence of Barrett's esophagus and the sex ratio in the abstract. Minor Comments 1. Were there any differences in the reported rates of BE prevalence in the Chinese literature and the western literature?