

## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5329

**Title:** Genetic polymorphisms of miRNA and risk of gastric cancer

**Reviewer code:** 02494487

**Science editor:** Cui, Xue-Mei

**Date sent for review:** 2013-08-30 14:03

**Date reviewed:** 2013-09-04 20:41

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 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	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)	language polishing	BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a review of published literature on the effect of miRNA on the risk of gastric cancer. Further a pooled analyses of 3 polymorphisms is attempted. The manuscript is inappropriately titled as it is specific for Asian populations only (table 1). There is no methodology indicated for pooled analysis, is it meta-analyses? If so, what criteria was used for selection of studies? English editing is strongly recommended and authors should also keep terminology consistent eg. MiRNA vs MIRNA

**ESPS Peer-review Report**

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5329

**Title:** Genetic polymorphisms of miRNA and risk of gastric cancer

**Reviewer code:** 02458583

**Science editor:** Cui, Xue-Mei

**Date sent for review:** 2013-08-30 14:03

**Date reviewed:** 2013-09-05 12:12

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input checked="" 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)		BPG Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision

**COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The manuscript looks unaligned and hard to focus in some sections. Search strategy and the method of analysis are not clear. Systematic approach is needed to have clear conclusions.

**ESPS Peer-review Report**

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5329

**Title:** Genetic polymorphisms of miRNA and risk of gastric cancer

**Reviewer code:** 02454001

**Science editor:** Cui, Xue-Mei

**Date sent for review:** 2013-08-30 14:03

**Date reviewed:** 2013-09-20 10:03

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 article is good, but as this is a review article it can be more exhaustive. please include these references- as the Biogenesis was described by Kaiser Jamil Including an appropriate diagram. .Kaiser Jamil (2007) "MiRNAs Rewrite the Rules of Molecular Biology" -Research Journal of BioTechnology Vol.-2 (4), 3 - 5. 2. Gowhar Shafi, Kaiser Jamil, Atya Kapley and Hemant Purohit.(2009) RNAi as a Novel Therapeutic Platform Technology for Oncological Solutions- a review. Biotechnology and Molecular Biology Reviews Vol. 4 (3), pp. 055-070, June 2009.

## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5329

**Title:** Genetic polymorphisms of miRNA and risk of gastric cancer

**Reviewer code:** 00011378

**Science editor:** Cui, Xue-Mei

**Date sent for review:** 2013-08-30 14:03

**Date reviewed:** 2013-10-14 03:55

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The MS of Hua et al as a topic highlights about SNPs of miRNAs and the risk of gastric cancer is timely and on a hot topic of research. Despite that authors have addressed some comments of other reviewers, major concerns still arise. In the abstract and introduction, authors mentioned the common view that miRNAs regulates negatively gene expression though the opposite has been described and should mentioned. The language needs revision preferably by a native English-speaker or Professional editing service, i.e. some verbs are in present time talking about reported work, which should be in simple past, second paragraph of the introduction, "identify should be identified". Other examples throughout the MS are "subject with variant homozygote CC" that should be replaced by subject homozygous for the variant C" and other versions of that. From some pharases the reader may have wrong information, i.e.in the section MIRNA BIOSYNTHESIS AND FUNCTION, authors affirm that pri-miRNA are 400 bp long which is not always true. But the major concern arise about the pooling methodology for including the studies referred to the 3 main SNPs discussed. The methodology used by the authors has many caveats. Then, The analysis should be redone using classical meta-analysis approaches using Mantel Haenszel ORs or another methods to weight each studies and to obtained the pooled effect assuming i.e. fixed effects. Other approach, which can be done simultaneously, is using the estimation of random effects. In doing so, it is possible to identify heterogeneity, publication bias and another factors associated with the analysis. Saying that the results described as the main conclusion of the MS are weak. Of course, it is not acceptable say that the results showed a tendency when the results are not significant, i.e. for SNP rs11614913 in miR-196a-2. In addition, authors confused OR with Risk, which have different forms of calculation and are not exactly the same i.e. OR=1.58 does not means a 58% increased risk. For



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the SNP rs895819 in miR-27a a minor allele C is mentioned opposed to the A/G variant described earlier (this reviewer assumes that C corresponds to G in the opposite strand but this should be clarified). In the description of the study of Ahn et al (49) about miR-146a, the description of genotypes is confusing or directly wrong.

## ESPS Peer-review Report

**Name of Journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5329

**Title:** Genetic polymorphisms of miRNA and risk of gastric cancer

**Reviewer code:** 00207727

**Science editor:** Cui, Xue-Mei

**Date sent for review:** 2013-08-30 14:03

**Date reviewed:** 2013-10-18 04:24

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this review, the review summarized and discussed findings on the association between miRNA polymorphism and risk of gastric cancer and conducted a meta-analysis of analysis of these findings. Major concerns: 1) Previous studies have been small. The findings from these studies have been largely inconsistent. In particular, the directions were not the same on each single SNP. However, based on the meta-analysis, the authors "And based on current data, we conclude the SNP rs2910164 in miR-146a has an important implication in gastric cancer susceptibility." The conclusion is too strong. The history of association studies of SNPs before recent large-scale GWAS is that very few of SNPs found in previous small-scale case-control studies were replicated or confirmed in large-scale and multi-phase GWAS conducted in recent years. As such, if we learned from the history, it could be very possible the findings from these studies on miRNA SNPs are also due to chance. Therefore, the conclusion should be very careful based on the currently available data. 2) The authors need to include a senior epidemiologist. It is clear the meta-analysis was used in the study, but the authors considered it as "pool analysis". An epidemiologist will be very helpful to interpret the findings from these previous epidemiologic studies, the meta-analysis, or the possibility for the chance findings. 3) English should be improved.