

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 17324

**Title:** Circulating Levels of Vitamin D and Colorectal Adenoma: a Case-control study and a Meta-analysis

**Reviewer's code:** 03001816

**Reviewer's country:** United States

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2015-03-02 15:53

**Date reviewed:** 2015-03-29 02:40

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a good paper. The authors need though to add to their discussion one extra limitation to the study. Being retrospective, they (and the same holds I assume for most or all of the other studies used in the meta-analysis) are measuring blood (25OHD) levels many months after the colonoscopies are performed. The assumption is that these blood levels are approximately the same as what these patients had during the years in which their adenomas were developing. Perhaps. But consider the patients are older, may have altered lifestyle as a result of a positive adenoma test, etc. More optimal would have been a study in which blood was drawn before the test, and even that doesn't necessarily give a long-term view of blood levels during the period in which these adenomas develop. This of course does not invalidate the study, but it does require the limitation to be duly noted in the discussion.

## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 17324

**Title:** Circulating Levels of Vitamin D and Colorectal Adenoma: a Case-control study and a Meta-analysis

**Reviewer's code:** 03253743

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Science editor:** Yuan Qi

**Date sent for review:** 2015-03-02 15:53

**Date reviewed:** 2015-03-30 00:02

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	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"/> The same title	<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"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

## COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well written manuscript in in writing and structure. The authors performed a case-control study among Korean adults determining the association between colorectal adenoma and 25(OH)D levels, moreover they systematically summarized the studies that have been made previously. However, according to the retrospective nature, the conclusion of this case-control study and the meta-analysis should be carefully explained. Furthermore, some changes are suggested below: Introduction: The reasons why serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D was measured for calculation but not 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D should better be explained briefly in the case-control study. Actually, the inverse association between circulating vitamin D levels and colorectal adenoma has been reported in the previous meta-analyses including one meta-analysis published in 2011 authored by the corresponding author of this manuscript. [Lee J E. Circulating levels of vitamin D, vitamin D receptor polymorphisms, and colorectal adenoma: a meta-analysis[J]. Nutrition research and practice, 2011, 5(5): 464-470.] The difference should better be stated if possible. What new questions does this manuscript try to answer? Materials and Methods: In the case-control study, the sample size is not

strong in such kind of study. The authors conducted the case-control study from August 2011 to September 2012, however, blood samples were provided between January and February 2013, long time after the colonoscopy. How could the bias been controlled as the concentration of blood (25OHD) levels MAY change long time after the colonoscopy. In the case-control study of Korean adults, the authors found an inverse association between circulating serum 25(OH)D levels and colorectal adenoma in women but not in men. Similar results in women but not in men were also found in literature. In table 3, Aigner' study (2014, Austria) was marked as "W". Actually, there were males in Aigner' study. Will this affect the stratification by sex? Results: The results were stated clearly. Discussion: The discussion should better be improved. The difference compared with previous studied could better be explained. The retrospective nature of the study is a limitation, too. Paragraph 4: "In an in vitro study, vitamin D treatment in Wistar rats reduced the apoptosis in colon tumors." Study in wistar rats should be an in vivo study. Apoptosis reduction is beneficial for tumor formation.