

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



May 20, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 3231-edited (download).doc).

Title: Impact of overweight on the surgical outcomes for gastric cancer: A meta-analysis

Author: Xiang-Song Wu, Wen-Guang Wu, Mao-Lan Li, Jia-Hua Yang, Qi-Chen Ding, Lin Zhang, Jia-Sheng Mu, Jun Gu, Ping Dong, Jian-Hua Lu, Ying-Bin Liu

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 3231

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

(1) About the graph. Figure 1 has been modified as decomposable, but Figure 2-6 can not, because they were generated by the software RewMan.

(2) We failed in indentifying the DOI of reference 19, therefore we have attached the full paper of this reference.

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Half of the first paragraph in the discussion part has been removed.

(2) In table 2,3,4, the long-term survival means cancer-specific survival, the corrections have been made. In addition, the decreased survival rates in the overweight cohort was not believed to related with the increasing tendency of comorbidity such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, because we use the cancer-specific survival as the indicator of survival results. This part has been highlighted in the discussion section.

(3) A subgroup analysis based on whether a total or subtotal gastrectomy was performed to investigate the influence of the types of gastrectomy. The relevant revision was in the parts of Methods, Results and Discussion.

(4) The types of lymphadenectomy have been already mentioned in Table 1.

(5) The mortality is mentioned at the end of paper and it is a research target. It is not included in the Abstract, because of the limitation of word number and because the difference is not significant.

(6) The information about the TNM stage and histological type has been added in Table 1 as suggested by reviewers. Moreover, other clinical variables, such as types of gastrectomy and lymphadenectomy, were listed in Table 1 before revision.

(7) The country names have been presented in the Figure 2-6 after revision.

(8) The limitation about the difference of surgeons and patients have been mentioned in the

discussion section after revision and highlighted by red.

(9) The discussion about publication bias was added in the revision. Although publication bias was a possible source of bias for meta-analysis, our results did not show any significant publication bias exist among the parameters in this meta-analysis.

(10) Advice about avoiding intra/postoperative complications has been suggested in the Discussion. These pieces of advice might seem a little bit premature, because there is no consensus about the methods to avoid complications for overweight patients.

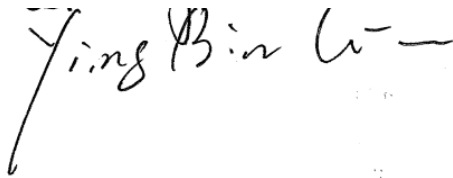
(11) One reviewer suggested us list the detail outcomes of open and laparoscopic gastrectomy. In fact, relevant information was provided in the results and Table 3 and 4.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

4. Language certificate has also been attached.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yingbin Liu' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yingbin Liu M.D.

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