

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Jul 7, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: ESPS-3740-edited.doc).

Title: Human Development Index is Associated with the Mortality-to-incidence Ratios of Gastrointestinal Cancers

Author: Qi-Da Hu, Qi Zhang, Wei Chen, Xue-Li Bai, Ting-Bo Liang

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 3740

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

1 Format has been updated.

2 Answer to reviewers' questions

(1) Q (from reviewer 00503528): This is a very interesting manuscript. However, there is no data of the authors. The authors just analyzed the database from multiple websites. Is this methodologically all right?

A: We have conducted a secondary analysis based on cancer epidemiological data. Secondary analysis, which involves the use of existing data sets to answer new research questions, is an increasingly popular methodological choice among researchers who wish to investigate particular research questions but lack the resources to undertake primary data collections (Clarke SP, Can J Nurs Res 2000; 32: 109-29). In detail, our analyses can be classified as secondary correlation analysis. Our major data resources are (1) global cancer incidence and mortality - GLOBOCAN database, (2) HDI: UNDP database, (3) state-specific cancer incidence and mortality - USCS report, and (4) state-specific HDI: calculated with data from several federal data resources. But we used those data sources as our primary raw data, and showed the association between the mortality-to-incidence ratio and the HDI. There has been a large amount of secondary analysis articles published recently (e.g. Lyratzopoulos G, Br J Cancer 2013; 108: 686-690; Cameron A, Lancet 2009; 373: 240-249). The method of secondary analysis is now a fully-developed technique for use of epidemiological analysis.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

4. The manuscript has been sent to Jing-Yun Ma Expert Group for SCI Biomedical Editing and Publishing for language polishing.

5. Figures were now decomposable. These figures were in a separate MICROSOFT WORD file.

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

Sincerely yours,

Ting-Bo Liang