

July 17, 2013

Dear Editor,



Title: Pleiotrophin promotes the perineural invasion in pancreatic cancer

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

1 Format has been updated

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

(1) We did find some correlation between the expression of PTN and poor survival. In our study, patients with negative PTN expression had a higher 3-year survival rate and a longer established survival time than those in cases with positive PTN expression (survival rate 50.0% versus 20.8% $P = 0.001$ and survival time 34 months versus 14 months respectively). We believe there are two reasons for this: first, the coexpression of N-syndecan and PTN were associated with perineural invasion of the cancerous pancreas, and the invasion is significantly associated with the prognosis. Secondly, it may result from the case selection. In patients with negative PTN expression, the early stages (stages I and II accounted for almost half the number of patients who received a pancreaticoduodenectomy or radical operation but many patients with positive PTN expression had advanced tumors and had lost the opportunity for under going radical surgery.

(2) This table shows associations between PTN, N-syndecan protein expression and clinicopathologic factors in pancreatic cancers

Factors	PTN positive cases %(n)	N-syndecan positive cases %(n)
Age (years)		
>60 (n=24)	66.7 (16)	66.7 (16)
≤60 (n=14)	57.1 (8)	42.9 (6)
Gender		
Female (n=14)	78.1 (11)	64.3 (9)

Male (n=24)	54.2 (13)	54.2 (13)
CA19-9 (n = 34)		
>37 U/ml (n = 20)	70.0 (14)	50.0 (10)
≤37 U/ml (n = 14)	71.4 (10)	57.1 (8)
Histological grade		
I (n=4)	75.0 (3)	50.0 (2)
II (n=20)	75.0 (15)	70.0 (14)
III (n=14)	42.3 (6)	42.9 (6)
Tumor size		
T≤2 cm (n=9)	44.4 (4)	22.2 (2)*
2 cm <T ≤ 5cm (n=22)	59.1 (13)	63.6 (14)*
T>5 cm (n=7)	100.0 (7)	85.7 (6)*
Lymph node metastasis		
Negative (n=15)	40.0 (6)*	40.0 (6)
Positive (n=23)	78.3 (18)*	69.6 (16)
Distant metastasis		
Negative (n=34)	58.8 (20)	52.9 (18)
Positive (n=4)	100.0 (4)	100.0 (4)
TNM stage		
I+II (n=20)	40.8 (8)**	45.0 (9)
III (n=14)	85.7 (12)**	64.3 (9)
IV (n=4)	100.0 (4)**	100.0 (4)

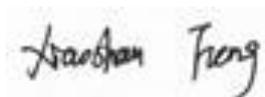
* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$.

(3) In fact, it is not very accurate to mention only pancreatic cancer here, we have changed this Sentence" Because advanced pancreatic cancer with PNI expresses" into" Because some advanced cancer with PNI expresses"

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,



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