

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



May 26, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 3212-review.doc).

Title: Diabetes mellitus carries a risk of gastric cancer: A metaanalysis.

Author: Shimoyama S

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 3212

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

I. Format has been updated

II. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

1. 95% confidence intervals are provided for all RRs in Introduction. See page 4.
2. Using Boolean operators was clarified in the text. With this searching method, relevant metaanalyses were also retrieved. See page 6.
3. The keywords used for article search are not restricted to population and study design to accelerate the inclusion as many studies as possible. MeSH was not applied because 'carcinoma' or 'cancer' can be regarded as one of the most popular keywords and they are considered preferable than 'neoplasia' to retrieve the appropriate articles more effectively. The Boolean operator appeared in the revised manuscript makes article retrieval reproducible.
4. The first search process retrieved articles not restricted to gastric cancer. Therefore, the articles which apparently reported other cancers than GC from their title/abstract were excluded. Afterwards, only articles reporting GC incidence in DM and nonDM cohort by full text review were included. Since in the original manuscript, only inclusion process was reported, so that these exclusion processes are also added in the text (pages 6 and 7).
5. Summary table to present characteristics of the included articles are supplied in the revised manuscript.
6. In reference 30, I^2 measures of >50% were categorized as notable heterogeneity. However, according to the referee's suggestions, I^2 measure of >70% is re-categorized as 'high heterogeneity'. The related sentences are revised. See page 6.
7. Each pooled RR for East Asian and the Western studies is respectively provided. See page 7.
8. The quality of publications of randomized trials is usually expressed by Jadad score. However, this study

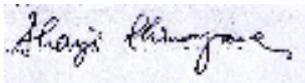
did not present Jadad score because no randomized trials were included in this metaanalysis.

9. In the newly presented Table, background confounding factors and RR of GC with consideration of them in each included study are listed. In addition, the sentences claiming merits for using actual number of GC patients are deleted. See page 8.

10. The plausible explanations for geographical difference of DM-GC association between East Asian and the West are added. See page 10.

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

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shouji Shimoyama', is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

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