

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

Wu Han, 18 August 2014



Dear Doctor Ma,

Thank you very much for your letter and the review of our manuscript. We have carefully addressed the reviewers' comments and revised the manuscript as requested. Our point-by-point responses to the reviewers' comments are detailed below. We also highlighted in red the major changes made in the text.

We highly appreciate the reviewers for their valuable and concrete comments, which are very helpful for us to improve our manuscript. We hope that these changes will make the manuscript acceptable for publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology. If there are additional changes that we should make, please let us know. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Title: Anti-EGFR MoAbs in metastatic colorectal cancer: A meta-analysis

Author: Qi-Bin Song ,Wang Qi, Wei-Guo Hu

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 12662

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) KRAS should be defined in abstract - writing in full.

Response: Thanks for your comment. We have made correction according to the Reviewer's comments.

(2) Abstract: Bevacizumab should be defined in abstract - for example ... the angiogenesis inhibitor Bevacizumab ...

Response: Thanks for your comment. We have made correction according to the Reviewer's comments.

(3) Pg.3 This truth has been proved ... change into ... Those observations have been shown beneficial ...

Response: Thanks a lot for your suggestion. We have made correction according to the Reviewer's

comments.

- (4) M&M: ... When the same patient population was used in several publications, only the most recent, largest or complete study was included in the meta-analysis. ... This needs to be refined and more detail provided: most recent (i.e., past 6 months?), how do you define largest (? More than 100 patients?), similarly, ... most complete study?(what do you mean with this?). After exclusion of duplicate and irrelevant studies (Figure1), ... As per above, how did you define this? Materials and Methods need more detail (i.e., elaborate on ...).

Response: Thanks very much for your suggestion. The results of a randomized controlled trial often published in a series of articles, when the same data was used in a several publications, the most recent, largest or complete study of these publications was included in this meta-analysis. For instance, Christos S. Karapetis et al (2008; NEJM) and Harbison et al (2012; Arch Pathol Lab Med) used the same patient data from NCIC CTG CO.17 Trial. Compared with Christos S. Karapetis's article, Harbison provided a up-to-date and comprehensive result which is more recent and detail. Therefore, we included Harbison et al instead of Christos S. Karapetis et al. We have added it in Materials and Methods.

The concept of duplicate and irrelevant studies has been described in Figure1.

- (5) Also, you need a statement that all data analysed are freely available as supplementary data on the WJG website or can be provided on request.

Response: Thanks a lot for your suggestion. We have made correction according to the Reviewer's comments.

- (6) However, patients with wild-type KRAS seemed not to benefit from anti-EGFR MoAbs with oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy as first line treatment. ... This needs to be underpinned by referring to the corresponding figure or table; or even with statistical evidence at the end of the sentence/statement.

Response: Thanks a lot for your suggestion. We have made correction according to the Reviewer's comments.

- (7) The main downstream signaling pathway of EGFR regulates crucial biological activities such as cell differentiation, cell survival, cell proliferation and cell migration. ... this sentence is in the need of literature reference(s).

Response: Thanks a lot for your suggestion. We have made correction according to the Reviewer's comments.

- (8) bevacizumab using. ... Change into and bevacizumab treatment

Response: Thanks a lot for your suggestion. We have made correction according to the Reviewer's comments.

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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