

December 17,2014

Dear Editor,

Thank you very much for your kind e-mail and advice regarding the review. We have tried to revise our manuscript entitled "Associations between CD24 gene polymorphisms and inflammatory bowel disease: A meta-analysis". I am sending the revised manuscript. Our responses to reviewers were added in this letter.

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14730-review.doc).

**Title:** Association between CD24 gene polymorphisms and inflammatory bowel disease: A meta-analysis

**Author:** Xiao-Li Huang, Dong-Hua Xu, Guo-Pin Wang, Shu Zhang, Cheng-Gong Yu

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 14730

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) **Comment:** The exception and inclusion criteria were both inadequate.

**Response:** Thanks for your kind suggestion. We have added a few exception and inclusion criteria as marked in red in our revised manuscript. (Line195-204, Page 5)

(2) **Comment:** Why did authors exclude 46 papers from the analysis. After excluding nearly all of the papers from the analysis, authors perform a meta-analysis with 2 or 3 papers. I think that such a low number of papers are inadequate for performing a meta-analysis.

**Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's kind suggestion. We got the 49 papers by searching "CD24"; and "inflammatory bowel disease", "Crohn's disease", "Ulcerative colitis", "IBD", "CD", or "UC"; and "polymorphism", "mutation", or "variant" in databases of PubMed,

Web of Science, and Cochrane Library. There were 29 irrelevance articles, 8 repetitive studies and 9 reviews being excluded. Only 3 articles were accorded with inclusion standard. The number of papers is a bit less, but the total number of samples is 4307. When the number of samples is more than 1000, the credibility of the combined analysis result is high. But if the number is less than 1000, the combined results need to be verified further.

(3) **Comment:** The language requires major revisions and the paper should be corrected by a native speaker.

**Response:** We have employed a professional English language editing company to revise the manuscript.

(4) **Comment:** There are mistakes with referrals in two paragraphs "Association of CD24 C170T polymorphism and IBD susceptibility" and "Association of TG1527del polymorphism and IBD susceptibility" - there is Table 3 Figure 1, should be Table 2 Figure 1 Please clarify which data are correct: in the main text there is a significant difference in CD group of P1527del vs TG (OR=1.27, 95% CI = 1.01-1.58, p=0.037) and in the Table 2 there is: (OR=1.24, 95% CI = 1.01-1.52, p=0.037) .Please clarify which data are correct:

in the main text there is "statistic test reveals that there was no heterogeneity between studies (for allele:  $I^2 = 0\%$ ,  $p=0.806$ )" and in the Table 2 there is: "statistic test reveals that there was no heterogeneity between studies (for allele:  $I^2 = 0\%$ ,  $p=0.803$ )"

**Response:** We are very sorry for these mistakes and have corrected and marked in red in the paper. Thanks for your careful guidance. (Line 334 and line 338, Page 7)

(5) **Comment:** The way that the abstract is worded suggests 'risk of CD for Caucasian cohorts' - ethnicity isn't mentioned before in the abstract and it may be perceived this don't apply to UC - just needs minor rewording/ say in methods they are Caucasian. It would help to know how IBD was diagnosed /classified in the 3 studies.

**Response:** Thanks for your kind advice. We increased ethnicity in the results marked in red( Line 61-62, Page 2). In order to better understand how IBD was classified in the 3 studies, we increased a table1 about Characteristics of the studies includes in the meta-analysis in results.(table 1 in page 20)

(6) **Comment:** Typographical errors eg 'articals' (inclusion and exclusion criteria) 'bia' (towards end of discussion) and 'IBD is thought to be a multiple genetic disease' may be better written as

'IBD is believed to partly arise from multiple genetic factors' or similar (start of discussion).

**Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's kind advice. We have altered the words (Line 202, Page 5; Line 495, Page 9) and the sentence in the article. (Line 350-351, Page 7)

3 References and typesetting were corrected

I hope that these revisions are satisfactory and that the revised version will be acceptable for publication in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

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

Yours sincerely,

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