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March 5, 2024

Editorial Office

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Dear Directors and Editors in Editorial Office:

Thank you very much for your email with encouraging news regarding our manuscript. We also thank the editorial office and reviewers for the positive/constructive comments and suggestions, which truly help us to improve our manuscript. After incorporating these comments and suggestions in the revised manuscript, we would like to re-submit it for your consideration for publishing in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. The amendments are highlighted in yellow in the revised manuscript, and the specific point-by-point responses to each of the Editorial Office's and reviewers' comments and suggestions are attached below.

Thank you again, and we hope that the revision is acceptable. We are looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Jing Lv, Doctor

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper on the role of the tumor immune microenvironment (TIME) in esophageal cancer (EC) and its implications for immunotherapy is both timely and significant. The authors have adeptly highlighted the global health burden of EC and the promising yet challenging role of immunotherapy in its management. The focus on the intricacies of the TIME in EC is particularly commendable for its originality and relevance to the field. The objectives of the review are clearly articulated and well-aligned with the current research needs in the field of oncology and immunotherapy. The comprehensive scope, covering cell infiltration, immune cell subsets, cytokines, signaling pathways, and MHC molecule expression, ensures a thorough understanding of the suppressive TIME in EC, which is crucial for advancing personalized immunotherapy strategies. The review is commendable for its depth and breadth, presenting a detailed examination of the suppressive mechanisms within the TIME of EC. The authors have successfully analyzed a vast array of studies to provide a coherent narrative that enhances our understanding of the variability in patient responses to immunotherapy. The critical analysis and integration of complex information into a cohesive review are particularly noteworthy. This paper makes a significant contribution to the field by elucidating the complex interactions within the TIME of EC and their impact on immunotherapy efficacy. The insights provided could pave the way for novel therapeutic approaches and the optimization of existing immunotherapies, marking a valuable addition to the literature. While the paper is well-constructed and informative, in order to further enrich the review, the authors might consider expanding on potential future research directions, particularly in overcoming the challenges and limitations of current immunotherapies



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for EC, could provide valuable guidance for the field. Overall, this paper is a commendable effort that significantly contributes to our understanding of the immunotherapeutic landscape in EC. Its coherent structure, coupled with a rigorous examination of the TIME, makes it a valuable resource for researchers and clinicians alike. I strongly recommend its publication and believe it will foster further research and discussion in the field.

Thank you very much for the revision and positive comments! We appreciate it very much! According to the Editorial Office's and reviewers' comments and suggestions, as well as the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors, we have made some modifications in the text, figures and figure legends accordingly, which are highlighted in yellow. Moreover, further language polishing for the revised manuscript has been performed by a professional English language editing company, and a renewal language certificate was provided along with the revised manuscript. We hope that all grammatical, syntactical, formatting and other related errors were resolved, and the revised manuscript could meet the publication requirement (Grade A). Please refer to the revised manuscript files uploaded on the F6Publishing system for detailed information. If there still are some contents that need further amendments, please do let me know. We will revise it as soon as possible. Thank you again for your work and comments, and we appreciate it very much!