

Author-reply to the comments of the science editor:

- (1) *Science editor:* 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a minireview of the circulating tumor DNA for diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of gastrointestinal malignancies. The topic is within the scope of the WJCO

Authors reply: thank you.

- (1) Classification: Grade C;

Authors reply: thank you

- (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The authors describe the role of ctDNA in early detection of relapse or treatment monitoring in Upper GI cancer, liver and bile duct cancer, pancreatic cancer and CRC. This article is of guiding value for the monitoring and treatment of cancers;

Authors reply: thank you

- (3) Format: There is 1 table;

Authors reply: yes, that is correct, will provide this in an extra word file as requested

- (4) References: A total of 92 references are cited, including 42 references published in the last 3 years;

Authors reply: na

- (5) Self-cited references: There is no self-cited reference;

Authors reply: yes, that is correct

- (6) References recommendations: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves), please send the peer reviewer's ID number to editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately.

Authors reply: the reviewer did not mention any changes in the references.

- 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B. A language editing certificate issued by Filipodia was provided.

Authors reply: yes, that is correct. Additionally, a native speaking scientist has proofread the manuscript.

3 Academic norms and rules: No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search.

Authors reply: thank you for checking that

4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJCO.

Authors reply: yes, that is correct.

5 Issues raised: No additional comments.

Authors reply: thank you

6 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.

Authors reply: thank you