Author's response to reviews

Title: Association study of two inflammation-related polymorphisms with susceptibility to hepatocellular carcinoma: a meta-analysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your favorable consideration and the reviewers’ insightful comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Association study of two inflammation-related polymorphisms with susceptibility to hepatocellular carcinoma: a meta-analysis” (MS: 3656396948498446). Those comments are highly valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied these comments carefully and have made corrections which we hope meet with approval. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer’s comments are as following:

Part A (Reviewer 1: Dr. Wenlei Zhuo).

1. The reviewer’s comment: Badly structured sentences with obvious grammatical errors could be found in the manuscript. Therefore, the authors are recommended to have it edited by a native speaker.

The authors’ Answer:
Special thanks to you for your insightful comments. We may be inexperienced in writing in English as it is not our native language. Sincerely considered the reviewer’s suggestion, we consulted with a company with professional language editing service. The edit was performed by professional editors at Editage, a division of Cactus Communications. The intent of my manuscript was not altered in any way during the editing process. The manuscript is carefully revised by a native English speaking professional and hope to have meet with approval.

2. The reviewer’s comment: The comparison between present meta-analysis and the following published similar meta-analyses has not been well-addressed in the revised paper. (articles list as follows)


The authors’ Answer:
It is really true as the reviewer suggested that we should consider all meta-analyses that have been focused on this same issue and have a discussion. Considering the Reviewer’s suggestion, we have searched the internet and read these two meta-analyses very carefully. Then we make our discussion part more
perfect by adding a comparison between our findings and the results of these two articles. We didn’t listed the differences point by point because some limitations of the former meta-analysis is mutual. But we are sure our manuscript improved in many ways. Our study by far contains the largest sample concerns the same issue. We avoided the heterogeneity brought by different types of population and organ origin. We hope our revised paper meets your approval.

**Part B (Reviewer2: Dr. Hua Zhao).**

1. **The reviewer’s comment:** The authors addressed most of the concerns and the overall quality of the manuscript has been improved.

   **The authors’ Answer:** We appreciate for the Reviewers’ warm work earnestly, and thank you for your support and approval.

**Part C (Executive Editor)**

Sincerely considered the Editor’s suggestion and the cost, we consulted with a company with professional language editing service and bear the costs of copyediting English ourselves. The manuscript is carefully revised by a native English speaking professional and hope to have meet with approval. The certificate of English editing is listed at the foot of this cover letter.

We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made many changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper. We appreciate for Editors’ and Reviewers’ warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions. We learned a lot during this process. Each author of this manuscript has reviewed this version of the manuscript and approved it for publication. We will be highly honored if our paper get accepted for publication.

Best wishes!

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