Author's response to reviews

Title: High level of serum apolipoprotein A-I is a favorable prognostic factor for overall survival in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma

Authors:

Xueping Wang (wangxuep@sysucc.org.cn)
Xiaohui Li (lixiaoh1@sysucc.org.cn)
Lin Zhang (zhanglin@sysucc.org.cn)
Jianhua Lin (linjh@sysucc.org.cn)
Hao Huang (huanghaoandwang@163.com)
Ting Kang (kangting@sysucc.org.cn)
Minjie Mao (maomj@sysucc.org.cn)
Hao Chen (chenhao@sysucc.org.cn)
Xin Zheng (zhengxin@sysucc.org.cn)

Version: 9
Date: 11 March 2016

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

Thank you again for your letters concerning our manuscript entitled “High level of serum apolipoprotein A-I is a favorable prognostic factor for overall survival in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma”. The comment is valuable. We have made corrections, which we hope will be met with approval. The point-by-point answers to the comments and suggestions are listed below.

Editors request:
Could you please include statements that cover the ethics approval for the healthy participants in the study and a consent statement to include them.

Answer: Thank you for pointing this out, we take the requested comments into consideration and made changes in the methods (Page 5, line 111-112). In our study, serums from 219 healthy donors were collected from the physical examination department at the Sun Yat-Sen University Cancer Center. Prior to use of these serum, informed consent was obtained from each of the healthy participants. All healthy participants provided written informed consent. And in their examination report, there is a notice: the serum might be used in scientific research after clinical examinations. Also we upload the hospital ethics committee review as a supplement in the next page.

Finally, we very much appreciate your and the referees time in reviewing our manuscript. We are looking forward to hearing from you regarding your final decision.

With kindest regards,

Yours Sincerely

Hao Chen
Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center IRB

Protocol title: High level of serum apolipoprotein A-I is a favorable prognostic factor for overall survival in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma.

Protocol version & Date: V1.2014.10.16

Informed consent version & Date: Exempted

Study site & Principle Investigator: Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center & Xue-Ping Wang

Two IRB members of SYSUCC have expedited review the proposal on Oct. 24, 2014 in accordance to ICH GCP guidelines, government regulations and laws, and agreed to approve this protocol.

Conditions: 1. Do not deviate from, or make changes to the study protocol without prior written IRB approval, except when it is necessary to eliminate immediate hazards to research subjects or when the change involves only logistical or administrative issues; 2. Report the following to SYSUCC IRB: (1) study protocol or consent document change, (2) serious adverse event, (3) study progress, and (4) new information that may be relevant to a subject's willingness to continue participation in the study; 3. Report study progress to SYSUC IRB at a 12-monthly interval until study closure.

Peng Wang-qing
IRB Chairman
Sun Yat-sen University Cancer Center
2014-10-24