Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prognostic value of TGF-β in lung cancer: systematic review and meta-analysis

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editor,
Many thanks for your letter (April 25, 2019) about our manuscript “Prognostic value of TGF-β in lung cancer: systematic review and meta-analysis (BMC Cancer MS: BCAN-D-18-02436R4)” and thanks for the referees taking time to deal with the manuscript and giving our suggestions. These suggestions are all valuable and very helpful for improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. According to the referees’ suggestions, we have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper. In addition to the referees’ suggestions, we also have made some small revisions in the manuscript. These revisions will not influence the content and framework of the paper. Revised parts have been highlighted using blue text in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responses to the referees’ comments are as following.
Editor Comments:

1 - Any manuscript submitted to a BioMed Central journal must be original and the manuscript, or substantial parts of it, must not be under consideration by any other journal. We note that the current submission contains textual overlap with other previously published works. Please re-write these sentences and phrases in your own words to ensure no overlap. If there is overlap in the Methods section, please ensure that you summarize the methods and cite the source.

There is considerable overlap with:

http://jtd.amegroups.com/article/view/3345/html

and some overlap with other publications.

We recommend that authors use an anti-plagiarism software, such as turnitin or any other free ones, to access any overlap, and reduce it.

Thank you for your attention to our article. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper. In addition to the referees’ suggestions, we also have added and corrected the English in our manuscript.

2 - The 'Consent for publication' section covers manuscripts that contain any individual person’s data in any form (including individual details, images or videos), for which consent to publish must be obtained from that person, or in the case of children, their parent or legal guardian.

If your manuscript does not contain any individual person’s data, please state “Not applicable” in this section.

Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

3 - Please remove any files from the file inventory that you do not wish to see published.
Thank you for your attention and we have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

4 - At this stage, please upload your proofread manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethrough or text in different colours. All relevant tables and figures should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files. Should you wish to respond to these revision requests, please include the information in the designated input box only.

Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Reviewer reports:
Reviewer 2 (Reviewer 2): PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
Yes - experiments and analyses were performed appropriately

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?
Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: The manuscript is improved, but there are additional changes that are required in the grammar and wording of the text.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
Page 6, line 51: pooling and additional investigations.
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 7, line 7: (NSCLC) and most patients their treatment…
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 7, line 13: With the development of targeted…
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 7, line 20: is a member of a multifunctional..
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 7, line 26: Studies have shown that..
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 7, line 32: metastasis [9].
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 8, line 2: All of the studies were published …
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 9, line 7: There were 28 articles included by screening..
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 9, line 17: involved in the present study..
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 9, line 32: All of the patients were confirmed…
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 9, line 40: Zhao et al [16] reported TGF-B expression..
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 10, line 44: revealed that high…
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 11, line 11: eight qualified studies in the literature are available..
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 11, line 15: correlate with survival […]
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have
carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 11, line 24: expression was higher than normal.
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 11, line 32: cells will contribute and produce...
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 11, line 43: Remove these sentences: The interstitial cells of the lungs have no relative impact with an irregular manner. The meaning of this sentence is not clear.
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 12, line 21: NSCLC can be concluded from our results.
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

Page 12, line 31: all of the populations included in the eight studies evaluated in our analysis were Asian.
Thank you for your attention to our article and valuable questions as well as suggestions. We have carefully amended and corrected the related contents in our paper.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
Only those indicated.