Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 4 Date: 18 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

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.
Page 7, line 7: (NSCLC) and most patients their treatment…
Page 7, line 13: With the development of targeted…
Page 7, line 20: is a member of a multifunctional..
Page 7, line 26: Studies have shown that..
Page 7, line 32: metastasis [9].
Page 8, line 2: All of the studies were published …
Page 9, line 7: There were 28 articles included by screening..
Page 9, line 17: involved in the present study..
Page 9, line 32: All of the patients were confirmed…
Page 9, line 40: Zhao et al [16] reported TGF-B expression..
Page 10, line 44: revealed that high…
Page 11, line 11: eight qualified studies in the literature are available..
Page 11, line 15: correlate with survival […
Page 11, line 24: expression was higher than normal..
Page 11, line 32: cells will contribute and produce…
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.
Page 12, line 21: NSCLC can be concluded from our results. 
Page 12, line 31: all of the populations included in the eight studies evaluated in our analysis were 
Asian..

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
Only those indicated.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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