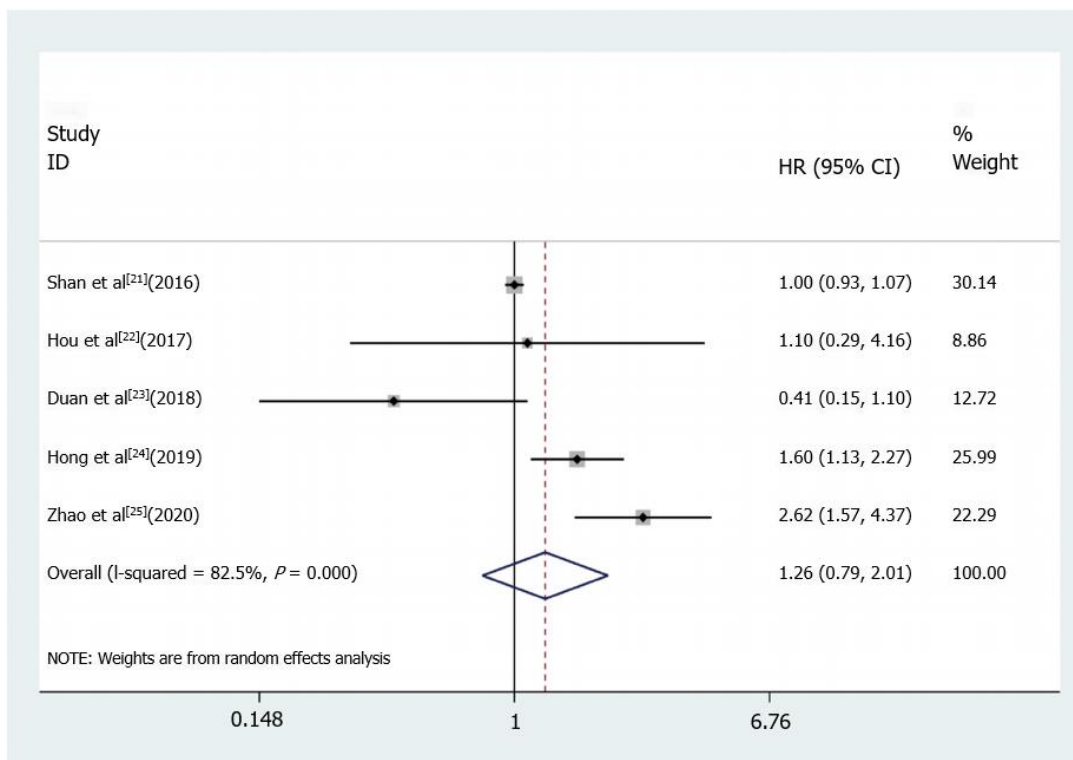


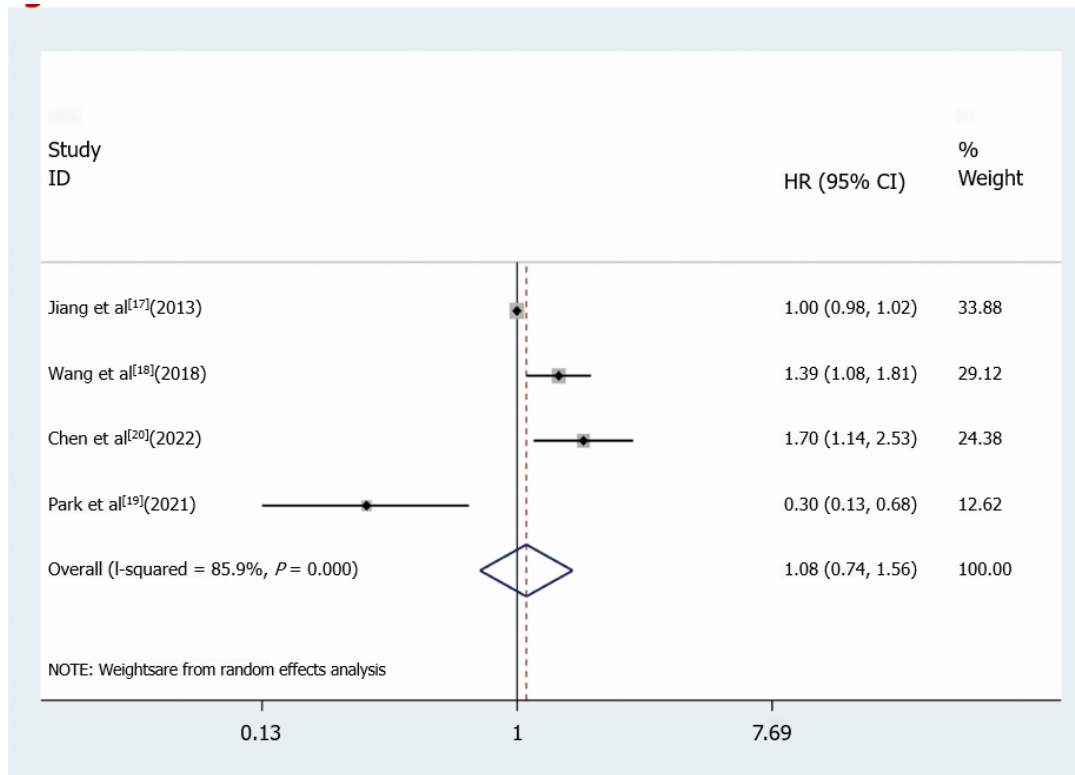
## Supplementary material

A subgroup analysis by cancer type was performed to assess the prognostic significance of T cell immunoglobulin and mucin-domain containing-3 (TIM3) in different types of upper gastrointestinal (GI) tract tumors. High expression of TIM3 was associated with worse prognosis in esophageal cancer and gastric cancer (Supplementary Figures 1-2). Specifically, in esophageal cancer, over expression of TIM3 was associated with shorter survival and higher risk of recurrence (Supplementary Figure 1). In gastric cancer, TIM3 positive expression was associated with poorer survival and higher risk of death (Supplementary Figure 2). These results suggest the potential prognostic role of TIM3 in different types of upper GI tract tumors. In addition, there were two literatures, the data of which was obviously biased. To illustrate the situation, we showed the result after removing these two literatures (Supplementary Figure 3). The result of Supplementary Figure 3 showed that high expression of TIM3 was significantly associated with poorer survival in upper GI tumors, this figure clearly demonstrates the prognostic value of TIM3 in upper GI tumors.



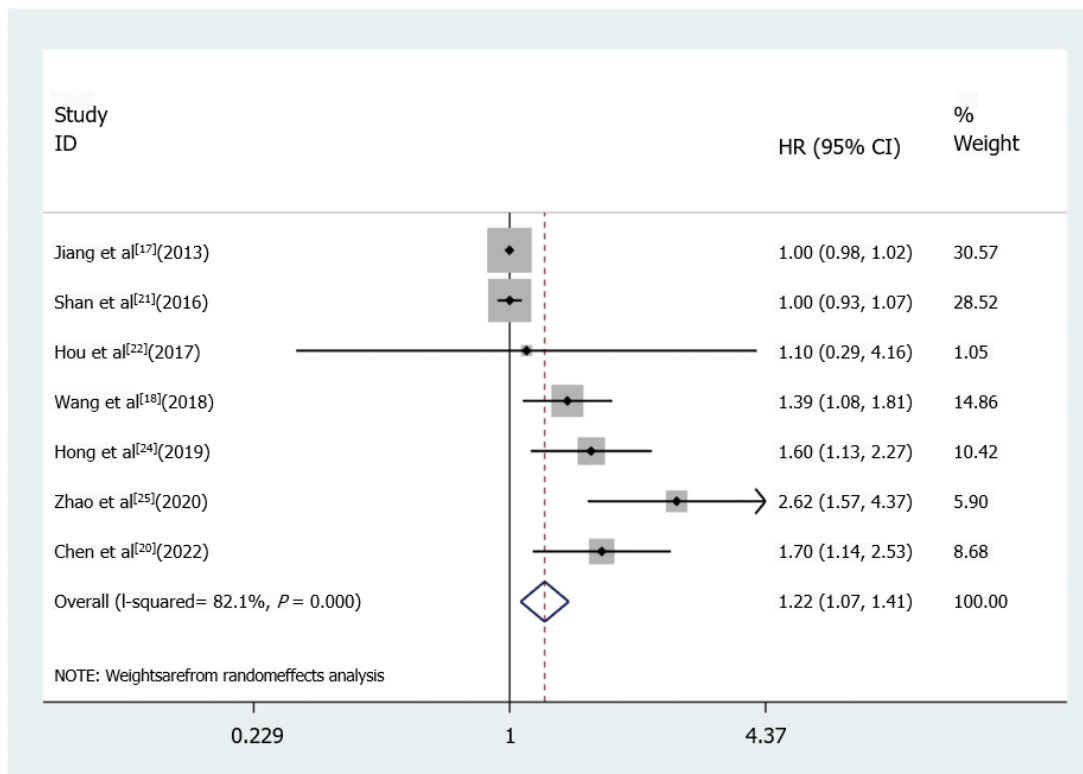
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**Supplementary Figure 1 Forest plot for the T cell immunoglobulin and mucin-domain containing-3 expression on overall survival in esophageal cancer.**



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**Supplementary Figure 2 Forest plot for the T cell immunoglobulin and mucin-domain containing-3 expression, in relation to overall survival in gastric cancer.**



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**Supplementary Figure 3 Forest plot for T cell immunoglobulin and mucin-domain containing-3 expression *vs* overall survival in upper gastrointestinal cancer after the removal of two literatures.**