PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Oncology

Manuscript NO: 86593

Title: Circulating Tumor Cells as Potential Prognostic Biomarkers for Early-Stage Pancreatic Cancer: A Systematic Review and Meta- Analysis

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 03479389

Position: Associate Editor

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Director, Professor

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: Japan

Author’s Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-06-29

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-07-13 03:21

Reviewer performed review: 2023-07-13 08:35

Review time: 5 Hours

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<th>Scientific quality</th>
<th>Grade A: Excellent</th>
<th>Grade B: Very good</th>
<th>Grade C: Good</th>
<th>Grade D: Fair</th>
<th>Grade E: Do not publish</th>
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<tr>
<td>Novelty of this manuscript</td>
<td>Grade A: Excellent</td>
<td>Grade B: Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creativity or innovation of this manuscript</td>
<td>Grade A: Excellent</td>
<td>Grade B: Good</td>
<td>Grade C: Fair</td>
<td>Grade D: No creativity or innovation</td>
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**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is a meta-analysis stating that measurement of CTCs in non-advanced pancreatic cancer may determine pancreatic cancer prognosis. If possible, you should evaluate in a meta-analysis of RCTs that measure CTCs preoperatively (or intraoperatively), as the method and timing of CTCs are different.
Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Oncology

Manuscript NO: 86593

Title: Circulating Tumor Cells as Potential Prognostic Biomarkers for Early-Stage Pancreatic Cancer: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 00504602

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Assistant Professor

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: Japan

Author’s Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-06-29

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu (Quit 2023)

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-08-14 01:22

Reviewer performed review: 2023-08-24 22:48

Review time: 10 Days and 21 Hours

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<td>[ ] Grade D: Fair</td>
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<td></td>
<td>[ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation</td>
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### Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript

- **Grade A**: Excellent
- **Grade B**: Good
- **Grade C**: Fair
- **Grade D**: No scientific significance

### Language quality

- **Grade A**: Priority publishing
- **Grade B**: Minor language polishing
- **Grade C**: A great deal of language polishing
- **Grade D**: Rejection

### Conclusion

- **Accept (High priority)**
- **Accept (General priority)**
- **Minor revision**
- **Major revision**
- **Rejection**

### Re-review

- **Yes**
- **No**

### Peer-reviewer statements

- **Peer-Review**: Anonymous
- **Conflicts-of-Interest**: Yes

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript was submitted as an META-ANALYSIS to the World Journal of Gastroenterology, first authored by Zi-Han Zhang. The authors review the relationship between Circulating Tumor Cells and prognosis of pancreatic cancer patients in the article “CTCs as Potential Prognostic Biomarkers for Early-Stage Pancreatic Cancer: A Systematic Review and Meta - Analysis”. In my mind, this manuscript is well reviewed but partly insufficient for publication at this moment. As to the tumor stage of pancreatic cancer, pancreatic physicians recently focus on the three distinct dimensions: anatomical (A), biological (B), and conditional (C) [Panreatology. 2018 Jan;18(1):2-11. PMID: 29191513 ]. CTCs is thought to be one of the biological markers (B). Basically, readers want to know the superiority as a biomarker of CTCs comparing to conventional tumor markers including CEA, CA19-9, Span-1, DUPAN II. This superiority should be reviewed and discussed.