

Dear Editors and Reviewers,

Thanks very much for giving me the opportunity to submit a revised draft of this manuscript entitled “Risk factors for lymph node metastasis in superficial esophageal squamous cell carcinoma”. I appreciate the time and effort that you dedicated to providing feedback on the manuscript and am grateful for the insightful comments and valuable improvements to the paper.

I have tried my best to revise the manuscript according to the comment. Those changes are highlighted within the manuscript in yellow. Besides, the revised manuscript has been sent to a professional English language editing company for further polish.

Reviewer:

Comment: In patients with SESCC, if lymph node metastases are present, further CRT or radical esophagectomy is required. But some imaging methods (PET, CT, EUS) was used to detect LN metastasis of SESCC, but have low accuracy. Tumor budding is known predictors of lymph node metastasis from SCC. Tumor budding is said to be a good marker for evaluating lymph node metastasis. In the future, I think it would be a good idea to use multivariate analysis as an indicator of lymph node metastasis.

Response: I sincerely thank the reviewer for careful reading. I have added previous studies addressing the mechanisms of tumor budding in the revised manuscript. In addition, I strongly agree with the reviewers on multifactorial analysis and have emphasized its importance in the revised conclusion.

I sincerely hope that this revised manuscript has addressed your comments. If I have not understood your comments correctly or there are any other modifications I could make, please contact me at any time and I will try my best to revise this manuscript. Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

[Yanbo Yu]

[Department of Gastroenterology, Laboratory of Translation Gastroenterology, Qilu Hospital of Shandong University, 107 Wenhuxi Road, Jinan 250012, Shandong,

China.]

[250012]

[+86-531-82166012]

[+86-531-82166012]

[yuyanbo2000@126.com]