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# PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

**Manuscript NO:** 55620

**Title:** EUS-guided fiducial marker placement in pancreatic cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis

**Reviewer's code:** 05207387
**Position:** Editorial Board
**Academic degree:** DSc, PhD
**Professional title:** Professor
**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** South Korea
**Author's Country/Territory:** United States
**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-02
**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique
**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-04-03 00:30
**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-04-06 05:10
**Review time:** 3 Days and 4 Hours

| | |
|---|---|
| **Scientific quality** | [ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [ Y] Grade C: Good<br>[ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish |
| **Language quality** | [ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [ Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing<br>[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection |
| **Conclusion** | [ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority)<br>[ ] Minor revision [ Y] Major revision [ ] Rejection |
| **Re-review** | [ ] Yes [ ] No |
| **Peer-reviewer statements** | Peer-Review: [ Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [ Y] No |

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**SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This meta-study aim to evaluate the safety, efficacy, and feasibility of EUS-guided fiducial placement for pancreatic cancer undergoing image-guided radiotherapy. If a few changes are made, I think it will be a valuable meta-study to prove the effectiveness of the intervention. 1. Page 6, Line 9-10: "Our search included articles for the years 2000 to 2019." - "Study search" in meta-analysis is very important. Please enter a specific search period. 2. Page 5, Line 19-20: "Study selection criteria: We solely included studies involving EUS-guided fiducial placement for intended IGRT for pancreatic cancer. " - The criteria for inclusion and exclusion of research should be more specific. For example, the authors should describe whether you included only RCT studies or excluded observational studies. 3. Page 6, 16-20: In this meta-research, was it analyzed only for case studies? "Quality of studies" should be conducted even for case studies. Authors need to check "COCHRANE CONSUMERS & COMMUNICATION REVIEW GROUP STUDY QUALITY GUIDE". 4. Please change Figure 1 to the flow diagram style of "PRISMA". 5. In Figure 1, 143 studies did not meet the inclusion criteria. Also, 24 studies were excluded from the analysis because they are not English. The exclusion criteria should be described specifically in Table 1. For example, the author should indicate the number of studies excluded by criteria. In addition, the "flow diagram" in Figure 1 is too simple. The author needs to explain the process of selecting the final 11 out of 1,024 studies. 6. In Figures 2 and 3, why didn't the authors analyze the random effect? 7. The trends in research in Figures 2 and 3 vary. The effect of one study (Dhadham et al., 2016) has a huge effect. I suspect that this result was due to the large number of samples from the study of Dhadham et al.(2016) compared to other studies. Is it unlikely that some results will distort the whole result? To demonstrate this, an evaluation of quality of studies is required. I encourage the author to add a evaluation of

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quality of studies to the results and discussions section. 8. The author needs to describe "Egger Bias" in detail in the Methods section. 9. In the Discussion section, add more limitations of the study. 10. Figure 5 alone does not confirm publication bias. Kendall's tau and Harvard-Egger must be presented together. 11. The conclusion section is ambiguous. Please revise the conclusion section based on the results of the study.

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# RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

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**Title:** EUS-guided fiducial marker placement in pancreatic cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis

**Reviewer's code:** 05207387
**Position:** Editorial Board
**Academic degree:** DSc, PhD
**Professional title:** Professor
**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** South Korea
**Author's Country/Territory:** United States

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-02
**Reviewer chosen by:** Ya-Juan Ma
**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-06-30 09:11
**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-06-30 09:40
**Review time:** 1 Hour

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|---|---|
| **Scientific quality** | [ ] Grade A: Excellent [ Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish |
| **Language quality** | [ Y] Grade A: Priority publishing [ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection |
| **Conclusion** | [ ] Accept (High priority) [ Y] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection |
| **Peer-reviewer statements** | Peer-Review: [ Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [ Y] No |

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

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There was no particular problem with the revised manuscript. The previous suggestion was fully corrected by the author. The quality of the paper has improved, and it can help readers understand.