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## Checklist for Authors to Revise a Manuscript – Editorial/Review

| <i>General Information of the Manuscript</i>   |
|--|
| <b>Name of Journal:</b> <i>World Journal of Experimental Medicine</i>  |
| <b>Manuscript NO.:</b> 100166  |
| <b>Manuscript Type:</b> Editorial  |
| <b>Manuscript Source:</b> Invited Manuscript   |
| <b>Title:</b> Matrix metalloproteases and their tissue inhibitors as indicators of aortic aneurysm and dissection development in extracellular matrix remodeling.  |
| <b>All Author List:</b> Marc Irsqusi, Fiona R. Rodepeter, Madeline Günther, Andreas Kirschbaum and Sebastian Vogt  |
| <b>Corresponding Author:</b> Sebastian Vogt, MD, MSc, Associate Professor, Senior Researcher, Heart Surgery, Philipps-University Marburg, Baldinger Str. 1, Marburg 35043, Hesse, Germany.<br>vogts@med.uni-marburg.de   |
| <b>Manuscript Revision Deadline:</b> 14 days   |
| <b>Date of Send for Revision:</b> 2024-12-17   |
| <b>Deadline for Revision:</b> 2024-12-31   |
| <b>Corresponding Author's Comments to Editor:</b><br><br>Because of my clinical duties and the date of Wiley's Editing Services for reply we have a delay in sending the revised manuscript. The Editing was requested from the reviewer. I beg your pardon.<br><br>SV |
| <b>Signature of Corresponding Author:</b> <u>Dr. Sebastian Vogt</u>  |
| <b>Date of Signature:</b> <u>12-31-2024</u> (month/day/year)   |
| <b>Kind Reminder:</b> Whether the author can submit relevant documents according to the following requirements and whether they can revise the manuscript according to the formatting requirements for   |



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an Editorial/Review manuscript will play an important role in the final acceptance of the manuscript. If authors cannot complete these actions, the manuscript will be unable to proceed to the next step in the process. The Corresponding Author is responsible for filling out this checklist and then submitting it to F6Publishing system along with the revised manuscript and all required documents.

The relevant documents that authors need to submit and the format for an Editorial/Review manuscript are as follows:

**1 Answering Reviewers.** Please provide point-by-point responses to each of the issues raised in the peer-review report(s).

**2 Supportive foundations.** If a manuscript has supportive foundations, the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s) must be provided.

**3 Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form.** Please provide the filled-in Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form.

**4 Article Processing Charge.** All *Baishideng Publishing Group (Baishideng)* journals are open-access (OA). An *Article Processing Charge (APC)*, (<https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/242>) for OA publication will be invoiced upon the acceptance of each manuscript and remitted in full by the authors' affiliations or funders to *Baishideng* before publication. The APC covers the costs of peer review, copyediting, typesetting, long-term archiving, and journal management. **The publisher will waive the publication costs of invited papers and therefore there are no charges for you as an invited author.**

**5 Copyright License Agreement.** Please download the Copyright License Agreement after all authors have accepted and signed it upon following the link that was sent in individual E-mails to each author.

**6 iThenticate.** It is recommended that authors provide the qualified similarity report of the revised manuscript by iThenticate.

**7 Non-native speakers of English authors.** Please provide a language editing certificate by a professional English language editing company which will serve to verify that the language of the manuscript has reached Grade A.



**8 Revised contents highlighted in yellow.** Please remove all editing tracks, notes, and sequence number, as well as line numbers, and **only highlight the necessary revised/added contents with yellow color in the revised manuscript.**

**9 Steps for Submitting the Revised Manuscript.** *Step 1:* Fly Page and Footnotes; *Step 2:* Figures and tables; *Step 3:* Main Text; *Step 4:* References; and *Step 5:* Revision Files Upload.

**10 Guidelines for Authors.** The guidelines for authors can be found at: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/204>.

If you encounter any difficulties in revising the manuscript and need support of the Editorial Office, please click this link to contact us through the [Help Desk \(https://www.f6publishing.com/helpdesk\)](https://www.f6publishing.com/helpdesk) portal.

**Authors' reply to peer-review report(s) and Science Editor and Company Editor-in-Chief's comments, and manuscript writing formatting**

| Item No. | Required Items for Manuscript Revision   | Comments<br>Yes = [Y]<br>No = [N] |
|----------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1        | <p><b>Peer-review report(s).</b> Authors must resolve all issues in the manuscript that are raised in the peer-review report(s) and provide point-by-point responses to each of the issues raised in the peer-review report(s):</p> <p>Reviewer #1:</p> <p><b>Scientific Quality:</b> Grade C (Good)</p> <p><b>Language Quality:</b> Grade B (Minor language polishing)</p> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Minor revision</p> <p><b>Specific Comments to Authors:</b></p> <p>Abstract The abstract provides a brief overview of the study's hypothesis and findings and it mentions the key elements of extracellular matrix (ECM) remodeling and the roles of MMPs and TIMPs. However, 1. The abstract lacks</p> | [Y]                               |



# Baishideng Publishing Group

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specific details regarding the methods and key results. I suggest the authors Include concise information on the experimental methods (e.g., histological analysis, biomarkers measured) and a brief summary of significant results. 2. The language is somewhat convoluted, making it hard to follow the core message. The authors should simplify sentence structures and clarify the objective and conclusions more directly Introduction The Introduction provides a thorough background on aortic aneurysms, dissections, and the role of MMPs and TIMPs. It Effectively introduces the concept of ECM remodeling. However, 1. The introduction is overly lengthy and dense. The introduction contains excessive detail that could be streamlined to maintain reader interest. I suggest the authors condense background information and focus on the gap in knowledge your study addresses. 2. The hypothesis is somewhat buried within the text. The authors should explicitly state the hypothesis or research question at the end of the introduction for clarity. Method The methodology section provides information on histological methods and biomarkers analyzed. Ethical considerations are mentioned. However, 1. The methodology section lacks clarity on sample size, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and statistical methods. I suggest the author clearly outline the study design, including the number of samples, patient demographics, and specific methods used for MMP/TIMP analysis. 2. The authors should ensure figures and tables are properly referenced within the methods section to guide readers. 3. Details on control samples are missing. The authors should specify the control group characteristics and how they were matched to the experimental group. Results The results include relevant findings on MMP and TIMP expression levels in different aortic layers. Figures and tables support the findings. However, 1. The results are presented in long paragraphs, making it difficult to follow key findings. The authors should use bullet points or subheadings to differentiate results related to aneurysms versus dissections. 2. Statistical Analysis shows limited mention of statistical significance. Authors should Include p-values and confidence intervals to support the findings more robustly. 3. Authors should ensure all figures are clearly labeled and that legends provide enough detail to be understood independently Discussion 1. The discussion reiterates many points from the introduction and results. The authors

focus on interpreting the findings rather than restating them. Highlight novel insights or implications for clinical practice. 2. Some conclusions about the mechanisms behind aneurysms and dissections are speculative. The author should clearly distinguish between findings supported by data and hypotheses that need further validation. 3. The practical implications of the findings are not well articulated. The author should discuss how these biomarkers could improve diagnosis or treatment of aortic diseases. 4. Some legends lack sufficient detail. The authors should ensure each figure legend explains the figure clearly, including methods and key results. 5. Ensure high-resolution images for clarity. 6. Align figure numbering with references in the text to avoid confusion. 7. Several grammatical errors and awkward phrasings detract from readability. The authors should consider language editing.

My answer to the reviewer:

## Reply to the Review 1:

Dear Reviewer, Dear Colleague,

Together with best wishes for the New Year 2025, I would like to thank you for your assessment regarding our article. First of all, I would like to point out a misunderstanding. Our manuscript was clearly submitted as an “**Opinion Review**” and refers on the one hand to the study we published (Irsusi et al. *Biomedicines* 2024, 12, 619; cited in the paper as reference 10) and on the other hand to the interesting review by Barkhordarian M et al. published in the *WJEM* (*World J Exp Med* 2024; 14(2): 91408). Thus, in our opinion, the conditions for an “Original Research Article” are not met. We have been informed by the editor that this manuscript is intended to be published as an “Editorial”.

### Abstract

*1. The abstract lacks specific details regarding the methods and key results. I suggest the authors Include concise information on the experimental methods (e.g.,*

*histological analysis, biomarkers measured) and a brief summary of significant results.*

*2. The language is somewhat convoluted, making it hard to follow the core message. The authors should simplify sentence structures and clarify the objective and conclusions more directly*

We have modified the abstract as follows:

“.....the authors present Matrix Metalloproteases and their inhibitors in **immunohistological analysis** as contributing factors involved in the pathophysiology of aortic aneurysms. Data analysis of MMP 1, MMP 9, TIMP 1 and TIMP 2 expression reveals a different distribution between Adventitia and Media and no uniform expression of the investigated markers. They appear as key elements of the extracellular matrix **and indicate on formation of aortic aneurysms is not solely driven by endoluminal pressure loading of the aortic wall alone.....**”

### **Introduction**

*1. The introduction is overly lengthy and dense. The introduction contains excessive detail that could be streamlined to maintain reader interest. I suggest the authors condense background information and focus on the gap in knowledge your study addresses.*

We have revised and shortened the text.

We wrote :...clinical observations also show that cardiosurgery patients also exhibit aortic diameters of more than 5.0 cm without signs of dissection, **but rather expressly only signs of degenerative changes** in the tissue.

And: (Hypothesis)... Aortic aneurysms do not mean a dissection per se. Only a reduced oxygen supply to the tissue, especially the media, **as a result of incomplete capillarization or neocapillarization** leads to tissue destruction, which allows entry for

the blood flow.

I think. It is clear.

*2. The hypothesis is somewhat buried within the text. The authors should explicitly state the hypothesis or research question at the end of the introduction for clarity.*

As I have mentioned, please see point 1.

**Method**

*1. The methodology section lacks clarity on sample size, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and statistical methods. I suggest the author clearly outline the study design, including the number of samples, patient demographics, and specific methods used for MMP/TIMP analysis.*

*2. The authors should ensure figures and tables are properly referenced within the methods section to guide readers.*

*3. Details on control samples are missing. The authors should specify the control group characteristics and how they were matched to the experimental group. Results*  
*The results include relevant findings on MMP and TIMP expression levels in different aortic layers.*

Dear Reviewer,

As I have already explained to you, our comments refer to the scientific results published under Irsusi et al. (Biomedicines 2024, 12, 619). Our aim is to supplement the good article by Barkhordarian M et al. Therefore, I refer to the original article when asking the question “Method”. We do not want to self-promote, but to point out an important issue.

**Findings**

*1. The results are presented in long paragraphs, making it difficult to follow key findings. The authors should use bullet points or subheadings to differentiate results*

*related to aneurysms versus dissections.*

We have gladly taken up your suggestion. After introduction, we explain our hypothesis and subsequently present arguments in favor of this theory. These are **organized with subheadings**. We list the results of our work and findings of other researchers in context.

*2. Statistical Analysis shows limited mention of statistical significance. Authors should Include p-values and confidence intervals to support the findings more robustly.*

We would like to **refer to reference 10**, as done in the text of the manuscript. All immunohistochemical results were subjected to a dedicated statistical analysis.

*3. Authors should ensure all figures are clearly labeled and that legends provide enough detail to be understood independently*

Figures are labelled and mentioned in the text. We have added the legends.

#### **Discussion**

*1. The discussion reiterates many points from the introduction and results. The authors focus on interpreting the findings rather than restating them. Highlight novel insights or implications for clinical practice.*

We have **revised and shorten** the text. Possible **clinical relevance** is suggested by the last sentence:

“In the future, it seems advisable to perform biopsies during cardiosurgical interventions to assess the risk of a potential increase in the aortic diameter.”

*2. Some conclusions about the mechanisms behind aneurysms and dissections are speculative. The author should clearly distinguish between findings supported by data and hypotheses that need further validation.*

I think presenting an opinion goes hand in hand with data, its interpretation and additional speculation about its relevance. We have taken the hint, formulated the

|   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
|   | <p>hypothesis and compiled facts from our work and from the literature to support this view.</p> <p><i>3. The practical implications of the findings are not well articulated. The author should discuss how these biomarkers could improve diagnosis or treatment of aortic diseases.</i></p> <p>That is a difficult question! We know about <b>many approaches</b> to diagnose using serum markers, which have all failed to produce satisfactory results. We mention <b>CD40L, MPO and MMP-1 and TIMP-1</b> in the text. These “soluble” markers are not yet in use (in our clinic). However, as we have already mentioned, immunohistochemical processing of biopsies appears to be an important task. Tissue samples can be taken during routine heart valve replacement or bypass surgery procedures so that the results can be included in the <b>follow-up examinations</b> of our patients. With this in mind, we have inserted a sentence.</p> <p><i>4. Some legends lack sufficient detail. The authors should ensure each figure legend explains the figure clearly, including methods and key results.</i></p> <p>We have revised the legends in part.</p> <p><i>5. Ensure high-resolution images for clarity.</i></p> <p>The Figures were downloaded in High Fidelity fashion.</p> <p><i>6. Align figure numbering with references in the text to avoid confusion.</i></p> <p>We start with figure 1, continue with 2 and 3 and end with figure 4.</p> <p><i>7. Several grammatical errors and awkward phrasings detract from readability. The authors should consider language editing.</i></p> <p>We have sent the ms to Wiley’s Editing Services.</p> |     |
| 2 | <b>Editorial Office’s comments.</b> Authors must revise the manuscript according to  | [Y] |

the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are provided below:

**(1) Science Editor:**

**1 Scientific quality:** The authors submitted an editorial of matrix metalloproteases and their tissue inhibitors as indicators for the development of aortic aneurysms.

**(1) Classification:** Grade C;

**(2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report:** The authors should simplify sentence structures and clarify the objective and conclusions more directly. The introduction provides a thorough background on aortic aneurysms, dissections, and the role of MMPs and TIMPs. It Effectively introduces the concept of ECM remodeling. However, the introduction is overly lengthy and dense. The introduction contains excessive detail that could be streamlined to maintain reader interest. The hypothesis is somewhat buried within the text. The authors should explicitly state the hypothesis or research question at the end of the introduction for clarity.

We did so!

**(3) References recommendations:** The reviewer didn't request the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself.

Yes

**(4) Manuscript Type:** After verification, the manuscript type is "Editorial".

Pleasure, was our intension.

**2 Specific comments**

**(1) Country/Territory of origin:** Germany.

**(2)** The language classification is Grade B. Please provide the latest language certificate after Return the Manuscript to Author for Revision. Please visit the following website for the professional English language editing companies that we recommend: <https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/240>.

We have chosen "Whiley's help" MS arrived at January 3d (hopefully!)

**(3) Manuscript Title:**

The title should not include any abbreviations.

Made it.

Except for capitalization of the first word, all other words are represented in

lowercase (excluding specific words such as Crohn's disease).

Done.

(4) **Authors and institution(s):** Author names should be written out first (as **first name, middle name initial (with no period) and family (sur)name**) and typed in bold, followed by a comma and the complete name of the affiliated institution, city, province/state, postcode and country typed in non-bold. Examples for authors name and institutions are:

**Yi-Fan Chang, Tao Liu, Chong-Qing Wei, Wei-Long Chang**, Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery, The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450052, Henan Province, China

(5) **Author contributions:** The 'Author contributions' passage describes the specific contribution(s) made by each author. The author's names will be listed in the following format: full family (sur)name, followed by abbreviated first and middle names. For example, Bryan L Copple should be revised as Copple BL.

Corrected

(6) **The "Key Words" does not meet the requirements:**

The 'Key words' list will provide 5-10 keywords that reflect the main content of the study.

Now they do.

(7) Please add the **"Core Tip"**. The Core Tip is a short paragraph that is independent of the content of the Abstract. The 'Core Tip' will provide a succinct summary of the study that outlines its most innovative and important arguments. This section should be less than 100 words. Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Core Tip. Do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/definition.

**Core Tip:**

In the Editorial we refer to the review by Barkhordarian et al [1] and point out the different expressions of Matrix Metalloproteases 1 and 9 and their inhibitors in the Aortic wall in Aneurysms and Dissections. In our opinion, the imbalance of the Extracellular Matrix is caused by hypoxic damage on the Vasa Vasorum of the Aortic wall, an associated inflammatory reaction and disruption of new vessel formation.

(8) **Audio Core Tip:** In order to attract readers to read the full-text article, we



request that the first author make an audio file describing the final core tip. This audio file will be published online, along with the article. The author can invite English language editing company to assist in resolving the language issues of Audio Core Tip.

Did it. Plz have a look

**(9) Reference numbers in the main text.**

**There are more than 3 consecutive references cited at the same time, use a "-" connection. For example,** This condition is defined in the absence of excessive alcohol intake, other liver diseases, or the consumption of steatogenic drugs[2-4].

Corrected as You wished.

**(10) There are issues with the references:**

Please provide the PMID numbers (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) and DOI citation numbers (<https://doi.crossref.org/simpleTextQuery>) to the reference list and list all authors of the references. If a reference has no PMID and DOI, please provide the source website address of this reference.

To ensure the accuracy of the references, please use "**Edit References by Auto-Analyser**"

(<https://www.f6publishing.com/Forms/main/ArticleReferenceTool.aspx>) to edit the references of the manuscript.

Done.

**(11) Figures.**

Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the **Figure Legends**. Do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/definition.

Revision of legends done.

**Original figure documents.** In the meantime, authors should provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor, and upload it to the file destination of "**Image File**" in the F6Publishing system.

**(12) Please verify if all pictures (s) are original? If an author of a submission is**

re-using a figure or figures published elsewhere, or that is copyrighted, the author must provide documentation that the previous publisher or copyright holder has given permission for the figure to be re-published, and correctly indicate the reference source and copyrights. For example, **“Figure 1 Histopathological examination by hematoxylin-eosin staining (200 ×). A: Control group; B: Model group; C: Pioglitazone hydrochloride group; D: Chinese herbal medicine group. Citation:** Yang JM, Sun Y, Wang M, Zhang XL, Zhang SJ, Gao YS, Chen L, Wu MY, Zhou L, Zhou YM, Wang Y, Zheng FJ, Li YH. Regulatory effect of a Chinese herbal medicine formula on non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. *World J Gastroenterol* 2019; 25(34): 5105-5119. Copyright ©The Author(s) 2019. Published by Baishideng Publishing Group Inc<sup>[6]</sup>”. And please cite the reference source in the references list. If the author fails to properly cite the published or copyrighted picture(s) or table(s) as described above, he/she will be subject to withdrawal of the article from BPG publications and may even be held liable.

All figures are originals for our manuscript. So, You have the copyright.

**(13) The discussion article provided in this editorial lacks detailed information.**

The *WJEM* article which this editorial discussed has not been listed in the references list. Please add the *WJEM* article which this editorial discussed into the main text and references list <Barkhordarian M, Tran HHV, Menon A, Pulipaka SP, Aguilar IK, Fuertes A, Dey S, Chacko AA, Sethi T, Bangolo A, Weissman S. Innovation in pathogenesis and management of aortic aneurysm. *World J Exp Med* 2024; 14: 91408 [PMID: 38948412 DOI: 10.5493/wjem.v14.i2.91408]>.

**3 Recommendation:** Conditional acceptance.

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Manuscript revised according reviewer 1. Additional reference introduced in the list.

**(2) Company Editor-in-Chief:**

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the *World Journal of Experimental*

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|   | <i>Medicine</i> and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors.   |       |
| 3 | <b>Manuscript title.</b> The title will concisely summarize the main topic of the study, being not overly long (no more than 18 words). Words such as 'exploration', 'research', 'analysis', 'observation', and 'investigation' are to be avoided. The title should not start with 'A', 'An', or 'The' and will not include any Arabic numbers or abbreviations. Please include the core key word in the title. If a title contains a colon, please capitalize the first letter of the first word after the colon. For example: Unexplained fetal tachycardia: A case report | [ Y ] |
| 4 | <b>Running title:</b> A short running title of no more than 6 words should be provided. Abbreviations are permitted. For example: Losurdo G <i>et al.</i> Two-year follow-up of HCC<br><br>"Irsusi <i>et al.</i> ECM remodeling and Aortic Disease"  | [ Y ] |
| 5 | <b>Author list.</b> Author names (unabbreviated) should be given as first name, middle name initial (with no period) and family (sur)name, and typed in bold with the first letter of each capitalized. A hyphen should be included between the syllables of Chinese names. For example: Yi-Fan Chang, Jia-Jing Li, Tao Liu, Chong-Qing Wei, Li-Wei Ma, Vladimir N Nikolenko, Wei-Long Chang   | [ Y ] |
| 6 | <b>Authors and institution(s):</b> Author names should be written out first (as first name, middle name initial (with no period) and family (sur)name; with a hyphen included between the syllables of Chinese names) and typed in bold, followed by a comma and the complete name of the affiliated institution, city, province/state, postcode and country typed in non-bold. Examples for authors name and institutions are:  | [ Y ] |

|   |   |     |
|---|---|-----|
|   | <p><b>Example 1:</b></p> <p><b>Yi-Fan Chang, Tao Liu, Chong-Qing Wei, Wei-Long Chang,</b> Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery, The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450052, Henan Province, China</p> <p><b>Jia-Jing Li,</b> Department of Pathology, The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450052, Henan Province, China</p> <p><b>Li-Wei Ma,</b> Department of Clinical Laboratory, The First Affiliated Hospital of Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou 450052, Henan Province, China</p> <p><b>Vladimir N Nikolenko,</b> Department of Human Anatomy and Histology, I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University (Sechenov University), Moscow 119991, Russia</p> <p><b>Example 2:</b> In the case that one author represents two institutions, the institutions will be listed separately, as shown here:</p> <p><b>Jin-Yu Pei, Bin Tan, Peng Liu, Guang-Hua Cao, Zu-Sen Wang, Lin-Lin Qu,</b> Department of Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery, The Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao University, Qingdao 266555, Shandong Province, China</p> <p><b>Jin-Yu Pei, Peng Liu, Guang-Hua Cao,</b> Medical College, Qingdao University, Qingdao 266071, Shandong Province, China</p> |     |
| 7 | <p><b>Co-first authors and co-corresponding authors.</b> Designation of co-first authors and co-corresponding authors is permitted. The example for bibliographic formatting of co-first or co-corresponding authors is:</p> <p><b>Co-first authors:</b> Jia-Ru Fan and Li Ma.</p> <p><b>Co-corresponding authors:</b> Jin-Lei Wang and Lian-Sheng Ma.</p> <p>Co-first authors will not be allowed to be co-corresponding authors and <i>vice versa</i>. For co-first authors, there should be a statement of support that justifies the equal</p>  | [Y] |

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|   | <p>contribution. For co-corresponding authors, there should be a statement of support that justifies the equal contribution.</p> <p>Although co-corresponding authorship may be allowed designation in the Author contributions section, <i>the listing of contact information will be provided for only one of the co-corresponding authors</i>. The two co-corresponding authors should choose which one of them will be responsible for all contact and correspondence with the journal.</p>   |     |
| 8 | <p><b>Author contributions:</b> The 'Author contributions' passage describes the specific contribution(s) made by each author. The author's names will be listed in the following format: full family (sur)name, followed by abbreviated first and middle names. For example, Bryan L Copple should be revised as Copple BL. A full multi-author example is: Wang CL, Liang L, Fu JF, Zou CC, Hong F and Wu XM designed the research study; Wang CL, Zou CC, Hong F and Wu XM performed the research; Xue JZ and Lu JR contributed new reagents and analytic tools; Wang CL, Liang L and Fu JF analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript; All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.</p> <p><b>Done!</b></p> | [Y] |
| 9 | <p><b>Supportive foundations.</b> If the manuscript has supportive foundations, authors must provide and specify the complete name(s) of the supportive foundation(s) and identification number(s) of grants or other financial support. Insert a semicolon (;) between funds, and end with a period (.). An example is:</p> <p><b>Supported by</b> National Natural Science Foundation of China, No. 31501861 and No. 31672286; and Natural Science Foundation of Shandong Province, China, No. ZR2015CM013.</p> <p><b>No help from no friend!</b></p>   | [Y] |



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| 10 | <p><b>Corresponding author.</b> The corresponding author’s contact information will be provided in the following format: written out first name (with a hyphen included between the syllables of Chinese names), middle name initial (with no period) and family (sur)name, and typed in bold and ending with a comma, followed by the corresponding author’s relevant honorifics (such as PhD, MD, Chief of Surgery, Assistant Professor, <i>etc.</i>) in bold. This is followed immediately by the affiliation (non-bold text), written out as complete name of the institution, street address, city and postcode, province/state, and country, and ending with a period. Immediately following the terminal period and a single space will be the corresponding author’s E-mail address; this E-mail address must be issued by his/her institution. All the letters in the E-mail address should be typed in lowercase. Examples for corresponding author are:</p> <p><b>Example 1:</b><br/><b>Andrzej S Tarnawski, MD, PhD, DSc (Med), Professor, Chief,</b> Department of Gastroenterology, VA Long Beach Health Care System, University of California, Irvine, 5901 E Seventh St, Long Beach, CA 90822, United States. astarnaw@uci.edu</p> <p><b>Example 2:</b><br/><b>Zong-Ming Zhang, MD, PhD, Chief Doctor, Professor,</b> Department of General Surgery, Beijing Electric Power Hospital, State Grid Corporation of China, Capital Medical University, No. 1 Taipingqiaoxili, Fengtai District, Beijing 100073, China. zhangzongming@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn</p> | [Y] |
| 11 | <p><b>Received: 20241222</b><br/><b>Revised: 20241231</b></p>   | [Y] |

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|----|--|-------|
| 12 | <p><b>Abstract.</b> An informative, unstructured abstract of no more than 200 words should accompany each manuscript. Abbreviations should be avoided, but if used should be spelled out at first mention.</p>   | [ Y ] |
| 13 | <p><b>Key words.</b> The ‘Key words’ list will provide 5-10 keywords that reflect the main content of the study. Please do not use abbreviations for the keywords (<i>e.g.</i>, Ulcerative colitis, not UC). The first letter of each keyword will be capitalized, and each keyword will be separated by a semicolon, with no terminal period. An example of correct formatting is:</p> <p><b>Key words:</b> Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; Alcoholic liver disease; Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; Animal models; Insulin resistance; Oxidative stress</p>  | [ Y ] |
| 14 | <p><b>Core Tip.</b> The Core Tip is a short paragraph that is independent of the content of the Abstract. The ‘Core Tip’ will provide a succinct summary of the study that outlines its most innovative and important arguments. This section should be less than 100 words. Abbreviations must be defined upon first appearance in the Core Tip. Do not use non-standard abbreviations, unless they appear at least two times in the text preceding the first usage/definition. An example of correct formatting is:</p> <p><b>Core Tip:</b> Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) is the sixth leading cause of cancer-related deaths globally predominantly due to metastasis. MicroRNAs (miRNAs), acting either as tumor suppressors or oncogenes, play crucial roles in the development and progression of tumors. We herein discussed the intimate correlations between miRNAs and ESCC metastasis, predominantly associated with genetic and epigenetic regulatory, and aimed to propose the potential role of miRNAs as diagnostic and therapeutic biomarkers for ESCC metastasis.</p> | [ Y ] |
| 15 | <p><b>Audio core tip.</b> In order to attract readers to read the full-text article, we request</p>  | [ Y ] |

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|    | <p>that the first author make an audio file describing the final core tip. This audio file will be published online, along with the article. Please submit audio files according to the following specifications:</p> <p><b>Acceptable file formats:</b> .mp3, .wav, or .aiff</p> <p><b>Maximum file size:</b> 10 MB</p> <p>To achieve the best quality, when saving audio files as an .mp3, use a setting of 256 Kbps or higher for stereo or 128 Kbps or higher for mono. Sampling rate should be either 44.1 kHz or 48 kHz. Bit rate should be either 16 bit or 24 bit. To avoid audible clipping noise, please make sure that audio levels do not exceed 0 dBFS.</p>  |     |
| 16 | <p><b>Main text.</b> The main text contains (1) <b>INTRODUCTION</b>; (2) <b>CUSTOMIZED TITLES</b>; and (3) <b>CONCLUSION</b>. These first level subtitles should be all capitalized, bolded and underlined. For example: “<u><b>INTRODUCTION</b></u>”</p> <p>Under each first-level subtitle, there can be several second-level subtitles. For formatting, capitalize the first letter for the first word; the subtitles are all in bold and italicized. For example: “<i><b>Use of anti-inflammatory agents</b></i>”.</p> <p>There can be several third-level subtitles under the second-level subtitles. For these, the first letter of the first word is capitalized, and the full subtitles are bolded followed by a colon immediate. For example: “<b>Mechanism of liver cancer: ...</b>”.</p> | [Y] |
| 17 | <p><b>Units.</b> Use SI units.</p> <p><b>For example:</b> body mass, m (B) = 78 kg; blood pressure, p (B) = 16.2/12.3 kPa; incubation time, t (incubation) = 96 h, blood glucose concentration, c (glucose) 6.4 ± 2.1 mmol/L; blood CEA mass concentration, p (CEA) = 8.6 24.5 g/L; CO<sub>2</sub> volume fraction, 50 mL/L CO<sub>2</sub>, not 5% CO<sub>2</sub>; likewise, for 40 g/L formaldehyde,</p>   | [Y] |

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|    | <p>not 10% formalin; and mass fraction, 8 ng/g, <i>etc.</i> Arabic numerals such as 23,243,641 (<i>i.e.</i> 23 million, 243 thousand, and 641) should be written as 23243641, with no commas and no spaces.</p> <p><b>For example:</b> millimeter, kilometer, gram, and kilogram should be abbreviated as mm, km, g, and kg, respectively.</p> <p>The format for how to accurately write common units and quantums can be found at: <a href="https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/189">https://www.wjgnet.com/bpg/gerinfo/189</a>.</p>  |       |
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| 19 | <p><b>Italics. (1) Quantities:</b> <i>t</i> time or temperature, <i>c</i> concentration, <i>A</i> area, <i>l</i> length, <i>m</i> mass, <i>V</i> volume. Genotypes: <i>gyrA</i>, <i>arg 1</i>, <i>c myc</i>, <i>c fos</i>, <i>etc.</i> Restriction enzymes: <i>EcoRI</i>, <i>HindI</i>, <i>BamHI</i>, <i>KboI</i>, <i>KpnI</i>, <i>etc.</i> Biological nomenclature: <i>H. pylori</i>, <i>E. coli</i>, <i>etc.</i> Latin terms: <i>i.e.</i>, <i>e.g.</i>, <i>via</i>, <i>etc.</i></p> <p><b>(2) Statistical symbols:</b> Please use statistical symbols in a standard way, including: (1) Lowercase letter <i>t</i> for <i>t</i> test; (2) uppercase letter <i>F</i> for <i>F</i> test; (3) lowercase Greek letter <math>\chi^2</math> for chi-square test; (4) lowercase letter <i>r</i> for correlation coefficient; (5) lowercase Greek letter <i>u</i> for degree of freedom; (6) lowercase letter <i>n</i> for sample number; and (7) italicized uppercase letter <i>P</i> for probability. In</p> | [ Y ] |

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|    | <p>statistical processing, mean <math>\pm</math> standard deviation is expressed as mean <math>\pm</math> SD, and mean <math>\pm</math> standard error as mean <math>\pm</math> SE. Probability value is expressed as <i>P</i> value (not <i>p</i> value nor <i>P</i>-value).</p>   |       |
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