



# Was ulcerative colitis one of the risk factors of colorectal cancer?

Qiaoqiao Guo<sup>1</sup>, Qiaoyang Xu<sup>1</sup>, Xiangjin Zhu<sup>2</sup>, Yinghong Guo<sup>1</sup>, Jiangfeng Wu<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Ultrasound, The Affiliated Dongyang Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University, Dongyang, China; <sup>2</sup>Laboratory Medicine, The Affiliated Dongyang Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University, Dongyang, China

Correspondence to: Jiangfeng Wu, Department of Ultrasound, The Affiliated Dongyang Hospital of Wenzhou Medical University, Dongyang 322100, China. Email: wjfhospital@163.com.

Submitted Feb 06, 2022. Accepted for publication Mar 28, 2022.

doi: 10.21037/jgo-22-120

View this article at: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jgo-22-120>

We read the recent published paper in this journal of *J Gastrointest Oncol* by Zhang and colleagues entitled “Secondary colon cancer in patients with ulcerative colitis: a systematic review and meta-analysis” (1). They performed a systematic review and meta-analysis to assess the correlation between ulcerative colitis (UC) and colon cancer. We appreciate Zhang *et al.* (1) for the valuable study, however, after a careful learning of the literature, several limitations should be noticed.

First, in the results section of the abstract, Zhang *et al.* (1) performed the meta-analysis by random-effect model because of statistical heterogeneity ( $\chi^2 = 103.10$ ;  $I^2 = 90\%$ ;  $P < 0.00001$ ) and found that there were no significant differences between colon cancer in patients with UC and patients without colon carcinoma ( $Z = 12.44$ ;  $P < 0.00001$ ). However, we believe the interpretation of the results was false. There should be significant difference due to  $P < 0.00001$ .

Second, in the statistical methods section of this article, Zhang *et al.* (1) stated that the odds ratio (OR) was used as an effect size for dichotomous variables. Whereas, in this meta-analysis, the effect size actually was relative risk (RR) showed in figures 5,6 and the OR was not reported in the study. Therefore, we believe the irrelevant effect size depicted would lead to misunderstanding.

## Acknowledgments

Funding: None.

## Footnote

Provenance and Peer Review: This article was a standard

submission to the journal. The article did not undergo external peer review.

**Conflicts of Interest:** All authors have completed the ICMJE uniform disclosure form (available at <https://jgo.amegroups.com/article/view/10.21037/jgo-22-120/coif>). The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

**Ethical Statement:** The authors are accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

**Open Access Statement:** This is an Open Access article distributed in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0), which permits the non-commercial replication and distribution of the article with the strict proviso that no changes or edits are made and the original work is properly cited (including links to both the formal publication through the relevant DOI and the license). See: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>.

## References

1. Zhang L, Gan H. Secondary colon cancer in patients with ulcerative colitis: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Gastrointest Oncol* 2021;12:2882-90.

**Cite this article as:** Guo Q, Xu Q, Zhu X, Guo Y, Wu J. Was ulcerative colitis one of the risk factors of colorectal cancer? *J Gastrointest Oncol* 2022;13(6):3340. doi: 10.21037/jgo-22-120