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LETTER

Letter to the editor regarding the publication "Association between matrix-metalloproteinase polymorphisms and prostate cancer risk: a meta-analysis and systematic review"

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The authors of the article, "Association between matrix-metalloproteinase polymorphisms and prostate cancer risk: a meta-analysis and systematic review", Zhou et al, have put forth a number of interesting points.[1] This paper, published in the journal *Cancer Management and Research* attempts to link matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) polymorphisms and the propensity to developing prostate cancer. Though a similar study has previously been done on ovarian cancer by authors credited in this study, this study does tread fresh ground on the topic of prostate cancer and has potential to act as a guideline for future research.

However, we would like to bring to attention a few possible improvements to the paper that may serve to benefit the study and better position it as a citable article. We believe that it is important to highlight, refer, and compare previous pioneer studies and publications in said field. Therefore, previous studies by Weng et al and Lin et al are of relevance to the study conducted by Zhou et al and are worthy of being included in the literature review.[2,3]

Furthermore, the inclusion of the "funnel plot", "Orwin's classic fail-safe N test", "Begg and Mazumdar Rank correlation test" and the "Duval and Tweedie's trim and fill" would present a better analysis of the possible publication bias as they are the standard tools used for assessment of bias.[4–6]

Finally, a minor suggestion to the authors is the inclusion of the Tau-squared value in the random effects model of statistical analysis, as it considers threshold effect, which is not considered by the usual I-squared and chi-squared values.[7]

We hope that the authors will consider the inclusion of these suggestions into their study as they have been presented solely to heighten the value of the paper and elevate it as a reference for future studies.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

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