

Peer Review File

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Reviewer Comments

A well designed systematic review and meta analysis on this topic. The authors should be commended for the following points:

- use of the PRISMA guidelines
- using the NOS to grade quality of articles
- stringent and appropriate selection criteria
- good mix of Asian and Western studies
- screening and extraction of studies by 2 independent authors
- funnel plot for bias and sensitivity analysis
- statistic analysis presented was comprehensive and easy to understand

The authors have shown in this meta-analysis that cholecystectomy is associated with right sided colon cancers. Perhaps if the data is available, they can also present the lead time to developing colon cancer after cholecystectomy. This would have implication on surveillance and how we counsel our patients.

Also some spelling errors to correct:

line 60: carcinogenic

line 179: constant exposure

Reply 1:

We appreciated the suggestions from the reviewers. We checked the included studies to investigate the possible lead time to developing colon and rectal cancer after cholecystectomy. Since only limited studies presented data associated with time interval after cholecystectomy and the time intervals were not the same among those studies, we finally included three studies to explore the lead time to developing colon and rectal cancer after cholecystectomy. The results were presented in the Results part (Page 7, line 156 to 158) and Table 2.

Spelling errors were corrected according to the instructions.

Changes in the text: line 60: carcinogenic (see Page 3, line 60); line 179: constant exposure (see Page 8, line 183)