

Questionable Ethics Statements on Three Articles by YE Guanzhi et. al.

A same ethical approval number (XMY-2024KYSB090) in three articles [1-3] coauthored by YE Guanzhi (叶冠志) et. al., with The First Affiliated Hospital of Xiamen University. However, This ethical approval is questionable.

| DOI | Participant Recruitment |
|----------------------------|--|
| 10.1186/s12885-025-15497-8 | Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma patients receiving neoadjuvant immunochemotherapy followed by esophagectomy between October 2020 and March 2024 were reviewed. |
| 10.1186/s13019-025-03587-4 | Patients with esophageal squamous cell carcinoma receiving neoadjuvant immunotherapy plus albumin-bound paclitaxel and platinum-based chemotherapy followed by esophagectomy from December 2020 to May 2024 were retrospectively analyzed. |
| 10.1186/s12876-025-03802-5 | Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma patients receiving neoadjuvant immunotherapy combined with chemotherapy followed by esophagectomy between January 2021 and March 2024 were included. |

According to these three articles [1-3], the ethical approval was granted to a retrospectively analysis study. However, the descriptions of the original participant recruitments are inconsistent among these three articles. In the article [1], the recruitment began in October, 2020, and ended in March, 2024; in article [2], the recruitment began in December, 2020, and ended in May, 2024; while in article [3], the recruitment began in January, 2021, and ended in March, 2024. These suggest that three distinct retrospectively analysis studies were reported in these three articles, however, these articles share a same ethical approval.

What is more, no ethical approval for the original participant recruitments was disclosed on these three articles.

[1] 10.1186/s12885-025-15497-8

[2] 10.1186/s13019-025-03587-4

[3] 10.1186/s12876-025-03802-5

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