Letters to the editor

Thiazolidinediones use and colorectal cancer risk

We read with great interest one meta-analysis recently published in your journal about the relationship between thiazolidinedione (TZD) use and cancer risk. Colmers et al. reported that TZD use could be modestly associated with a decreased risk of colorectal cancer (pooled risk ratio = 0.93, 95% CI = 0.87–1.00, \( P = 0.04 \)) \[1\]. However, in our cohort study based on analysis of the Taiwan National Health Insurance database, TZD use did not correlate with a decreased risk of colorectal cancer in female diabetic patients (hazard ratio = 0.88, 95% CI = 0.54–1.48) \[2\]. Previous studies have also shown that no association could be detected between TZD use and colorectal cancer risk \[3–5\].

Given the presence of such conflicting results, in our opinion the exact effect of TZD use on colorectal cancer risk cannot be established from the existing data. For this reason, more studies are needed to definitively clarify this issue.

Disclosure of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest concerning this article.

References


S.W. Lai\(^a,b\)

K.F. Liao\(^c,d,*,e\)

\(^a\) School of Medicine, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan

\(^b\) Department of Family Medicine, China Medical University Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan

\(^c\) Graduate Institute of Integrated Medicine, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan

\(^d\) Department of Internal Medicine, Taichung Tzu Chi General Hospital, No.66, Section 1, Fongsing Road, Tanzi District, Taichung City 427, Taiwan

\(^e\) Department of Health Care Administration, Central Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taichung, Taiwan

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +886 4 2205 2121; fax: +886 4 2203 3986. E-mail address: kuanfuliao@yahoo.com.tw (K.F. Liao)