

# Prognostic role of lymphocyte to monocyte ratio for patients with pancreatic cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Wendi Li  
Lianyan Tao  
Lingfu Zhang  
Dianrong Xiu

Department of General Surgery,  
Peking University Third Hospital,  
Beijing, China

**Background:** Lymphocyte to monocyte ratio (LMR) was recently reported as a prognostic factor of pancreatic cancer (PC). However, the prognostic role of LMR in PC remains inconsistent and inconclusive. The aim of this study was to assess the prognostic value of LMR in patients with PC through meta-analysis.

**Methods:** Eligible studies inquiring into the connection between LMR and survival of patients with PC were collected and extracted by searching PubMed, Embase, Cochrane Library and Web of Science up to May 9, 2017. Pooled hazard ratios (HRs) and the 95% CIs were calculated to assess the prognostic value of LMR on overall survival (OS) and disease-free survival/recurrence-free survival/time to progression (DFS/RFS/TTP).

**Results:** A total of 1,795 patients with PC from 8 studies were included in the meta-analysis. Pooled analysis indicated that elevated LMR predicted a favorable OS (HR =0.56, 95% CI: 0.38–0.83,  $P=0.004$ ) and DFS/RFS/TTP in PC patients (HR =0.38, 95% CI: 0.15–0.95,  $P=0.04$ ). Prognostic values of LMR on OS were observed in subgroups with all ethnicities, treatment with surgery, American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) stage of III–IV, and LMR cut-off value  $\geq 3$ . In addition, low LMR was significantly connected with gender and AJCC stage.

**Conclusion:** An elevated LMR is associated with favorable survival in patients with pancreatic cancer.

**Keywords:** pancreatic cancer, lymphocyte to monocyte ratio (LMR), meta-analysis, prognosis

## Introduction

Pancreatic cancer (PC) is one of the most aggressive malignancies, and the fourth leading cause of cancer death worldwide, with an overall 5-year survival rate of  $<5\%$ .<sup>1</sup> Surgical resection is still the primary treatment for patients with operable disease, but most PC patients cannot be diagnosed until advanced stage, and only  $<20\%$  are operable.<sup>2,3</sup> Therefore, it is important to identify a prognostic marker that could contribute to the selection of individual therapeutic strategy and the improvement of prognosis of PC.

Systemic inflammation has been found to be associated with angiogenesis and progression of cancer,<sup>4–6</sup> and can be easily measured by peripheral blood-based parameters such as neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR), platelet to lymphocyte ratio (PLR), and lymphocyte to monocyte ratio (LMR), which is associated with prognosis in patients with various types of malignant tumors.<sup>7–11</sup> Recently, a number of investigations suggested that LMR predicts clinical outcomes of PC patients.<sup>12–14</sup> Nevertheless, the consistency and magnitude of the prognostic impact of LMR for PC patients has not yet been systematically analyzed. Therefore, we conducted a

Correspondence: Dianrong Xiu  
Department of General Surgery,  
Peking University Third Hospital,  
No. 49, Hua Yuan North Rd, Hai Dian  
District, Beijing 100191, China  
Email xiudianrong@hotmail.com

systematic review and meta-analysis to assess the prognostic value of LMR on overall survival (OS) and disease-free survival/recurrence-free survival/time to progression (DFS/RFS/TTP) in PC patients.

## Materials and methods

### Search strategies and eligible criteria

This analysis was conducted in accordance with the PRISMA statement.<sup>41</sup> PubMed, Embase, Cochrane Library, and Web of Science were systematically searched for literature up to May 2017. The following terms were used in the main medical subject heading terms and text words: “PC,” “pancreatic cancer,” “pancreatic carcinoma,” “pancreatic tumor,” “pancreatic neoplasms,” “pancreatic adenocarcinoma,” “PDAC,” “LMR,” “lymphocyte monocyte ratio,” “lymphocyte to monocyte ratio,” “lymphocyte-to-monocyte ratio,” “lymphocyte-monocyte ratio,” “prognosis,” “outcome,” “survival,” “mortality,” “recurrence” “progression,” “metastasis”. References of relevant studies were also scanned for potentially eligible studies.

Inclusion criteria for our analysis were as follows: 1) the diagnosis of PC was confirmed by pathology; 2) described prognostic value of LMR for OS, cancer-specific survival (CSS), RFS, DFS or progression-free survival (PFS); 3) HR with 95% CI was available for data extraction.

The exclusion criteria were as follows: 1) letters, conference abstracts, case reports, editorials, expert opinions and reviews; 2) lacked sufficient data to extract HRs and their 95% CIs; 3) duplicate publications and repeated analyses.

### Data extraction and qualitative assessment

The following information of each eligible study was extracted independently by 2 investigators (WL and LT): 1) first author’s name, year of publication, country, ethnicity,

survival analysis methods (multivariate, univariate) and survival outcome (OS, CSS, DFS, PFS and TTP); 2) mean age of patients, number of patients (male and female), AJCC stage, treatment, cut-off of LMR, and consideration of ROC for selection of cut-off; 3) HRs as well as their 95% CIs for OS, CSS, DFS, RFS and TTP (Table 1). HRs were extracted from multivariable analyses due to consideration of the confounding factors. If multivariable analyses were not available, HRs from univariable analyses were extracted. Any discrepancies were resolved by discussion to reach a consensus.

The quality assessment of eligible studies was independently performed by 2 reviewers (WL and LT) according to the NOS,<sup>20</sup> which included criteria of patient selection (0–4 points), comparability of groups (0–2 points), and outcome assessment (0–3 points). If NOS scores were  $\geq 7$ , a study was defined as a high-quality study (Table 1).

### Statistical analysis

RevMan version 5.3 software (Cochrane Collaboration, Copenhagen, Denmark) was used for statistical analysis. The chi-square-based Q-statistic test and the  $I^2$  statistic were performed to assess the inter-study heterogeneity.<sup>42</sup> A fixed-effects model was used if there was no significant heterogeneity ( $P > 0.10$  for the Q-test and  $I^2 < 50\%$ ). Otherwise, a random-effects model was selected. The aggregated HRs and 95% CIs were applied to assess the prognostic value of LMR on OS and DFS/RFS/TTP. The associations between LMR and clinicopathologic features were expressed as odds ratios (ORs) and their 95% CIs. Subgroup analyses were conducted on the following items: ethnicity, treatment, AJCC stage, cut-off for LMR. Sensitivity analyses were conducted by evaluating result stability after sequential omission of each study. All statistical tests were two-tailed, and  $P < 0.05$  was defined as statistical significance. Funnel plot asymmetry test was used to estimate the publication bias.

**Table 1** Main characteristics of all the studies included in the meta-analysis

Author	Year	Country	Ethnicity	Age, years (mean $\pm$ SD)	Sample (male/female)	AJCC stage	Treatment	ROC analysis	Cut-off value	Survival outcome	HR analysis	NOS score
Fujiwara et al <sup>17</sup>	2014	Japan	Asian	66.5 $\pm$ 10.9	111 (68/43)	I–IV	Surgery	No	2	OS/DFS	MV/UV	7
Li et al <sup>4</sup>	2016	China	Asian	62.0 $\pm$ 2.8	144 (77/67)	I–III	Surgery	Yes	2.86	OS/RFS	MV/UV	7
Qi et al <sup>18</sup>	2015	China	Asian	61.2 $\pm$ 10.7	211 (134/77)	III–IV	Mixed	No	3.3	OS	MV/UV	6
Qi et al <sup>19</sup>	2016	China	Asian	58.8 $\pm$ 10.7	177 (108/69)	III–IV	Chemotherapy	Yes	3	OS/TTP	MV/UV	7
Sierzega et al <sup>16</sup>	2017	Poland	Caucasian	60 (55–66)*	442 (260/182)	I–III	Surgery	Yes	3	OS	MV/UV	7
Singh et al <sup>13</sup>	2017	USA	Caucasian	66.0 $\pm$ 8.8	97 (97/0)	I–IV	Mixed	No	2.05	OS	UV	6
Yu et al <sup>15</sup>	2017	China	Asian	NA	139 (83/56)	III–IV	Chemotherapy	No	3.19	OS	MV/UV	7
Stotz et al <sup>12</sup>	2015	Austria	Caucasian	64.6 $\pm$ 10.4	474 (256/218)	I–IV	Mixed	Yes	2.8	CSS	MV/UV	8

**Note:** \*Median (interquartile range).

**Abbreviations:** AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer; CSS, cancer-specific survival; DFS, disease-free survival; HR, hazard ratio; MV, multivariate; NA, not available; NOS, Newcastle–Ottawa Scale; OS, overall survival; RFS, recurrence-free survival; ROC, receiver operating characteristic; TTP, time to progression; UV, univariate.

## Results

### Search results and study characteristics

Fifty-one primary records were identified for initial review using searching strategies, of which 11 were duplicates. Forty titles and abstracts were screened for eligibility, and 12 articles were enrolled for further evaluation. After full-text article assessment, 4 articles were excluded due to conference abstract and insufficient data. Finally, 8 studies were selected for the present meta-analysis following the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement (Figure 1).<sup>12–19</sup>

A total of 1,795 patients were included for the meta-analysis and characteristics of 8 enrolled studies are shown in Table 1. Two studies were reported by Qi et al and samples came from the same medical center in China, but the enrolled groups were non-repetitive.<sup>18,19</sup> All the studies were published between 2014 and 2017 and retrospective sample sizes ranged from 97 to 474. Among the studies, 5 evaluated Asian patients, and 3 Caucasian patients. The treatments were surgery, chemotherapy and mixed methods. Seven studies reported the prognostic value of LMR in OS,

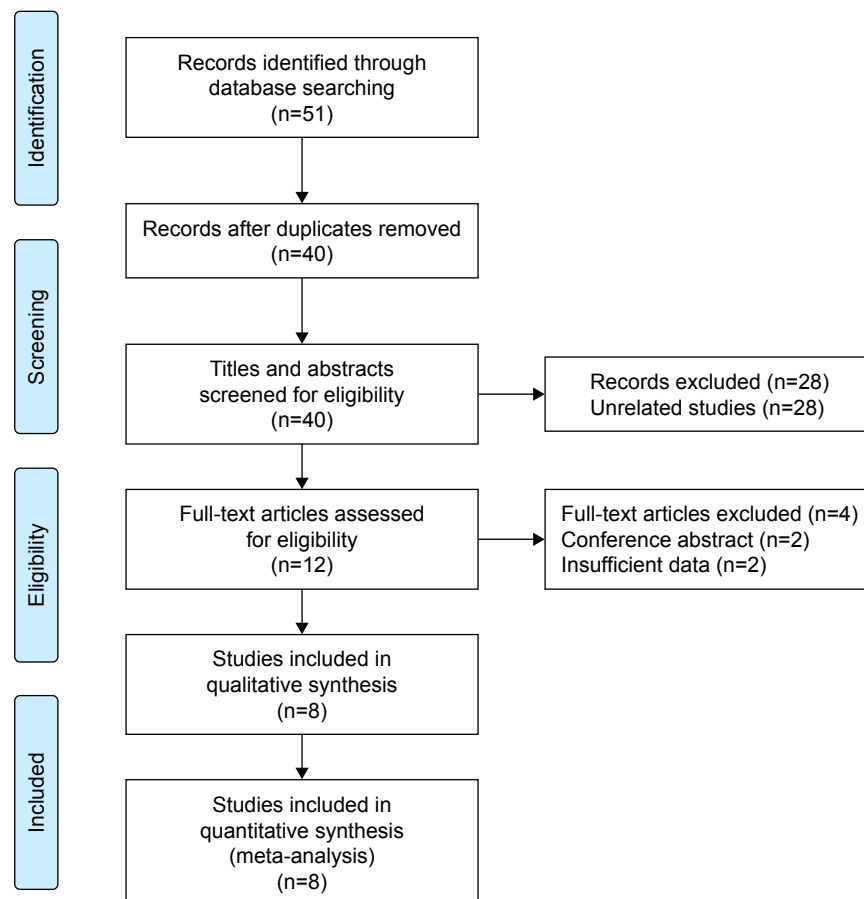
and 3 studies in DFS/RFS/TTP. Hazard ratios (HRs) and their 95% CIs were reported in the included studies with multivariable and/or univariable analyses. The LMR cut-off values ranged from 2 to 3.3, and 4 of them were identified with receiver-operating characteristic (ROC) curves. The Newcastle–Ottawa scale (NOS) scores of the included studies ranged from 6 to 8.<sup>20</sup>

### Meta-analysis

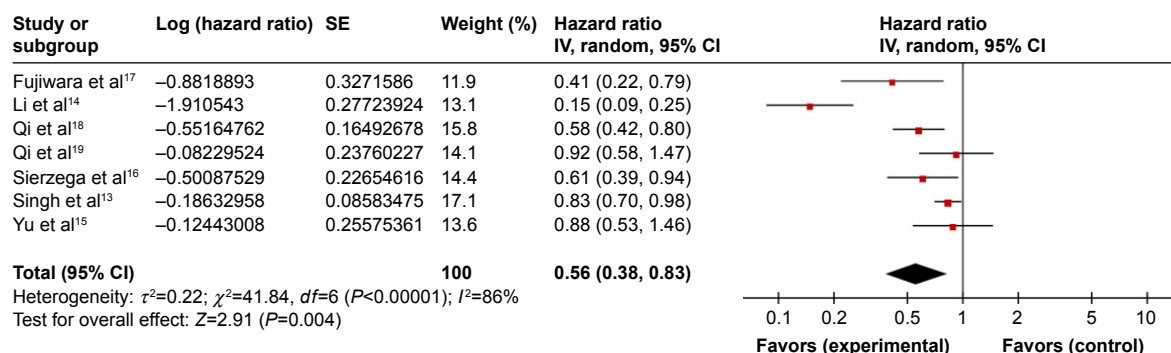
#### The prognostic value of LMR in OS

Seven studies evaluated the association between LMR and OS, which included 1,321 patients with PC. The pooled analysis indicated that an elevated LMR predicted a favorable OS (HR=0.56, 95% CI: 0.38–0.83,  $P=0.004$ ). The heterogeneity of included studies was significant and a random-effects model was used ( $P_h < 0.001$ ;  $I^2=86\%$ ) (Figure 2).

To minimize the influence of heterogeneity, we conducted 4 subgroup analyses based on ethnicity, treatment, American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) stage, and cut-off value of LMR (Table 2). Subgroup analysis according to ethnicity showed that LMR had a prognostic role of OS



**Figure 1** Flow diagram of the study selection in the analysis.



**Figure 2** Forest plots for the association between LMR and OS.

**Abbreviations:** LMR, lymphocyte to monocyte ratio; OS, overall survival; SE, standard error.

in Asians (HR =0.50, 95% CI: 0.27–0.91,  $P=0.02$ , random-effects model,  $I^2=87\%$ ), and in Caucasians (HR =0.80, 95% CI: 0.68–0.93,  $P=0.005$ , fixed-effects model,  $I^2=41\%$ ). In the subgroup of the treatment, increased LMR predicted an enhanced OS in patients treated with surgery (HR =0.34, 95% CI: 0.14–0.80,  $P=0.01$ , random-effects model,  $I^2=87\%$ ), but not chemotherapy (HR =0.90, 95% CI: 0.64–1.27,  $P=0.56$ , fixed-effects model,  $I^2=0\%$ ) and mixed methods (HR =0.71, 95% CI: 0.50–1.01,  $P=0.06$ , random-effects model,  $I^2=74\%$ ). When stratified by AJCC stage, the analyses indicated that LMR was a prognostic marker in patients with AJCC stage of III and IV (HR =0.71, 95% CI: 0.56–0.90,  $P=0.005$ , fixed-effects model,  $I^2=43\%$ ), but not in patients with AJCC stage of I–IV (HR =0.63, 95% CI: 0.32–1.23,  $P=0.17$ , random-effects model,  $I^2=76\%$ ) and I–III (HR =0.30, 95% CI: 0.08–1.20,  $P=0.09$ , random-effects model,  $I^2=94\%$ ). In the subgroup of the cut-off value for LMR, the results indicated that increased LMR was significantly associated with favorable OS in studies of cut-off value  $\geq 3$  (HR =0.69,

95% CI: 0.56–0.85,  $P<0.001$ , fixed-effects model,  $I^2=24\%$ ), but not in studies of cut-off value  $< 3$  (HR =0.38, 95% CI: 0.12–1.15,  $P=0.09$ , random-effects model,  $I^2=95\%$ ).

### The prognostic value of LMR in DFS/RFS/TTP

Three studies comprising 432 patients reported HRs for DFS/RFS/TTP. The random-effects model was used for analyses because there was significant heterogeneity ( $P_h <0.001$ ;  $I^2=92\%$ ). Pooled data indicated that elevated LMR was connected with favorable DFS/RFS/TTP in PC patients (HR=0.38, 95% CI: 0.15–0.95,  $P=0.04$ ) (Figure 3). Subgroup analyses were not carried out because of a deficiency in studies.

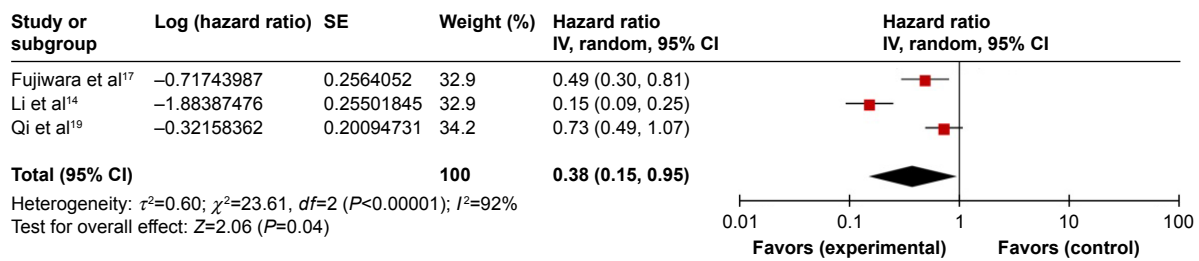
### Clinicopathological parameters and LMR

To investigate the association between LMR and characteristics of PC patients, we identified 5 clinicopathological parameters that included gender, age, location, AJCC stage, and tumor differentiation (Table 3). The pooled analysis showed that

**Table 2** Subgroup analyses for the association between LMR and OS in PC

Subgroup	No of studies	No of patients	Effects model	HR (95% CI)	P-value	Heterogeneity	
						$I^2$ (%)	$P_h$
Overall	7	1,321	Random	0.56 (0.38–0.83)	0.004	86	<0.001
<b>Ethnicity</b>							
Asian	5	782	Random	0.50 (0.27–0.91)	0.02	87	<0.001
Caucasian	2	539	Fixed	0.80 (0.68–0.93)	0.005	41	0.19
<b>Treatment</b>							
Surgery	3	697	Random	0.34 (0.14–0.80)	0.01	87	<0.001
Chemotherapy	2	316	Fixed	0.90 (0.64–1.27)	0.56	0	0.90
Mixed	2	308	Random	0.71 (0.50–1.01)	0.06	74	0.05
<b>AJCC stage</b>							
I–IV	2	208	Random	0.63 (0.32–1.23)	0.17	76	0.04
I–III	2	586	Random	0.30 (0.08–1.20)	0.09	94	<0.001
III–IV	3	527	Fixed	0.71 (0.56–0.90)	0.005	43	0.17
<b>Cut-off for LMR</b>							
$\geq 3$	4	969	Fixed	0.69 (0.56–0.85)	<0.001	24	0.27
$< 3$	3	352	Random	0.38 (0.12–1.15)	0.09	95	<0.001

**Abbreviations:** AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer; HR, hazard ratio; LMR, lymphocyte to monocyte ratio; OS, overall survival; PC, pancreatic cancer.



**Figure 3** Forest plots for the association between LMR and DFS/PFS/TTP.

**Abbreviations:** DFS, disease-free survival; LMR, lymphocyte to monocyte ratio; PFS, progression-free survival; TTP, time to progression; SE, standard error.

low LMR was significantly connected with gender (male vs female; HR =1.46, 95% CI: 1.09–1.97,  $P=0.01$ ) and AJCC stage (I and II vs III and IV; HR =0.50, 95% CI: 0.37–0.69,  $P<0.001$ ). No significant difference was found between the level of LMR and age (<65 vs  $\geq 65$ ; HR =0.86, 95% CI: 0.63–1.18,  $P=0.35$ ), location (head vs body/tail; HR =1.03, 95% CI: 0.64–1.65,  $P=0.91$ ), and tumor differentiation (poor vs well/moderate; HR =1.25, 95% CI: 0.90–1.73,  $P=0.18$ ).

**Sensitivity analysis and publication bias**

We performed sensitivity analyses to assess the stability of the results of analyses considering all the included studies. Every single study was removed to estimate the influence of individual data sets on the combined HR for OS and DFS/RFS/TTP. The result showed that the pooled HR was not obviously influenced by any single study, which indicated that our pooled results were stable.

Funnel plot asymmetry test was used to estimate the publication bias. Visual inspection of funnel plot of OS indicated asymmetry, which may be due to an insufficient number of studies and significant statistical heterogeneity (Figure 4).

**Discussion**

Inflammation is the seventh hallmark of cancer,<sup>21,22</sup> and the bilateral influence of systemic inflammatory status and cancer is involved in the prognosis of PC patients. Inflammation-related prognostic scores utilizing blood count parameters, such as NLR, LMR, and PLR, have gained increasing attention in various malignancies, including PC.<sup>10,11,23–25</sup> To

the best of our knowledge, this is the first meta-analysis to investigate the prognostic value of LMR in PC.

Our study pooled the currently available evidence and suggested that the elevated LMR significantly increases OS and DFS/RFS/TTP in patients with PC. Because there was significant heterogeneity among studies, subgroup analyses were performed. The subgroup analyses showed that LMR had prognostic value in OS regardless of ethnicity. As for the treatment of PC, our study implied that higher prognostic value of LMR in OS was observed in patients who received surgery. We suggested that the OS of patients receiving chemoradiotherapy can be influenced by unknown factors, such as myelosuppression. Furthermore, the stratified analyses showed that LMR may have more prognostic value for OS in advanced PC patients. The cut-off value of LMR for OS in PC patients was different for previous retrospective studies, and our stratified analyses showed that LMR cut-off value  $\geq 3$  may have more discriminative prognostic value for OS. In addition, the association between LMR and clinicopathological parameters of PC patients was analyzed. The pooled data showed that male patients and advanced PC patients (AJCC stage III and IV) were more likely to have low LMR, which indicated poor OS.

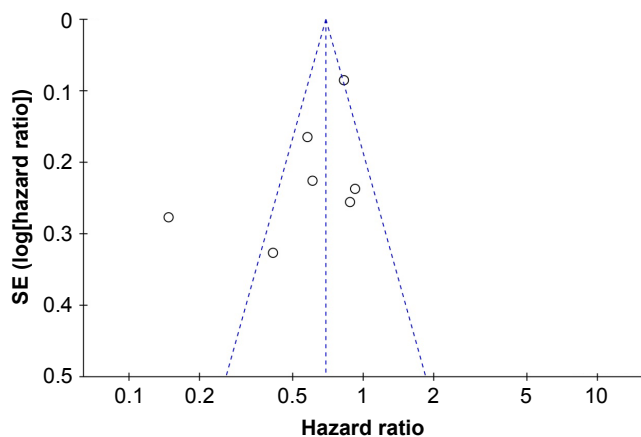
The real mechanisms by which LMR predicts the survival outcome of PC patients are still unclear. The systematic inflammation state, which is affected by host immunity, is associated with progression and metastasis of PC.<sup>26–28</sup> Tumor infiltrating immune cells play a critical role in cancer progression and metastasis, and have prognostic value in

**Table 3** Meta-analysis of the association between LMR and clinicopathological parameters of PC

Characteristics	No of studies	No of patients	OR (95% CI)	P-value	Heterogeneity	
					I <sup>2</sup> (%)	Ph
Gender (male vs female)	3	729	1.46 (1.09–1.97)	0.01	0	0.90
Age (<65 vs $\geq 65$ )	2	618	0.86 (0.63–1.18)	0.35	39	0.20
Location (head vs body/tail)	3	341	1.03 (0.64–1.65)	0.91	0	0.83
AJCC stage (I–II vs III–IV)	4	822	0.50 (0.37–0.69)	<0.001	0	0.90
Differentiation (poor vs well/moderate)	2	618	1.25 (0.90–1.73)	0.18	0	0.33

**Abbreviations:** AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer; LMR, lymphocyte to monocyte ratio; OR, odds ratio; PC, pancreatic cancer.





**Figure 4** Funnel plot for studies investigated OS in PC.  
**Abbreviations:** OS, overall survival; PC, pancreatic cancer.

various malignancies.<sup>29–31</sup> Tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes are important components of the anti-tumor immune microenvironment, and are the cellular basis of immunosurveillance against tumor cells.<sup>32</sup> CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T lymphocytes play an important role in anti-tumor immunity reaction through induction of cytotoxic cell death and inhibition of tumor cell proliferation and migration.<sup>33–35</sup> In addition, previous studies have found that lymphocytopenia was a prognostic factor of OS in PC.<sup>27,28</sup>

Monocytes play an important role in tumor progression. Tumor-associated macrophages (TAMs), which are associated with peripheral blood monocytes, have been found to be correlated with poor survival in several malignancies.<sup>36,37</sup> TAMs have also been implicated in promoting tumor invasion and angiogenesis, as well as had immunosuppressive effects on anti-tumor response of lymphocytes by production of growth factors and cytokines.<sup>5,39–41</sup> Therefore, a low LMR represented inadequate anti-tumor immunity and a tumor promoted inflammatory microenvironment.

There were several limitations of our study. First, significant heterogeneity was found among studies. Therefore, a random-effects model and subgroup analyses were performed to adjust for heterogeneity. Second, there were not enough eligible studies to focus on the prognostic value of LMR in DFS/RFS/TTP, so the subgroup analyses were not conducted. Third, the cut-off value of LMR was different in each study, based on which stratified analyses on cut-off value for LMR were conducted in our study. Finally, all included studies were retrospective studies.

In conclusion, our meta-analysis showed that an elevated LMR is associated with favorable survival in patients with PC. The LMR could be a generally available and low price prognostic biomarker of PC in clinical practice.

## Acknowledgments

This study was supported by a grant from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No 81672862), the Doctoral Fund of the Ministry Education of China (No 20090001110096) and the Capital Characteristic Clinical Application Research and Achievement Promotion Project (No Z171100001017121).

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

## References

- Torre LA, Bray F, Siegel RL, Ferlay J, Lortet-Tieulent J, Jemal A. Global cancer statistics, 2012. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2015;65(2):87–108.
- Ryan DP, Hong TS, Bardeesy N. Pancreatic adenocarcinoma. *N Engl J Med.* 2014;371(22):2140–2141.
- Bond-Smith G, Banga N, Hammond TM, Imber CJ. Pancreatic adenocarcinoma. *BMJ.* 2012;344:e2476.
- Balkwill F, Mantovani A. Inflammation and cancer: back to Virchow? *Lancet.* 2001;357(9255):539–545.
- Coussens LM, Werb Z. Inflammation and cancer. *Nature.* 2002;420(6917):860–867.
- Grivnikov SI, Greten FR, Karin M. Immunity, inflammation, and cancer. *Cell.* 2010;140(6):883–899.
- Goh BK, Kam JH, Lee SY, et al. Significance of neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio, platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio and prognostic nutrition index as preoperative predictors of early mortality after liver resection for huge (& gt;=10 cm) hepatocellular carcinoma. *J Surg Oncol.* 2016;113(6):621–627.
- Glazer ES, Rashid OM, Pimiento JM, Hodul PJ, Malafa MP. Increased neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio after neoadjuvant therapy is associated with worse survival after resection of borderline resectable pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *Surgery.* 2016;160(5):1288–1293.
- Proctor MJ, Morrison DS, Talwar D, et al. A comparison of inflammation-based prognostic scores in patients with cancer. A Glasgow Inflammation Outcome Study. *Eur J Cancer.* 2011;47(17):2633–2641.
- Shirai Y, Shiba H, Sakamoto T, et al. Preoperative platelet to lymphocyte ratio predicts outcome of patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma after pancreatic resection. *Surgery.* 2015;158(2):360–365.
- Nishijima TF, Muss HB, Shachar SS, Tamura K, Takamatsu Y. Prognostic value of lymphocyte-to-monocyte ratio in patients with solid tumors: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Cancer Treat Rev.* 2015;41(10):971–978.
- Stotz M, Szkandera J, Stojakovic T, et al. The lymphocyte to monocyte ratio in peripheral blood represents a novel prognostic marker in patients with pancreatic cancer. *Clin Chem Lab Med.* 2015;53(3):499–506.
- Singh G, Nassri A, Kim D, Zhu H, Ramzan Z. Lymphocyte-to-monocyte ratio can predict mortality in pancreatic adenocarcinoma. *World J Gastrointest Pharmacol Ther.* 2017;8(1):60–66.
- Li GJ, Xu HW, Ji JJ, Yang F, Gao BQ. Prognostic value of preoperative lymphocyte-to-monocyte ratio in pancreatic adenocarcinoma. *Oncotargets Ther.* 2016;9:1085–1092.
- Yu SL, Xu LT, Qi Q, et al. Serum lactate dehydrogenase predicts prognosis and correlates with systemic inflammatory response in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer after gemcitabine-based chemotherapy. *Sci Rep.* 2017;7:45194.
- Sierzega M, Lenart M, Rutkowska M, et al. Preoperative neutrophil-lymphocyte and lymphocyte-monocyte ratios reflect immune cell population rearrangement in resectable pancreatic cancer. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2017;24(3):808–815.

17. Fujiwara Y, Misawa T, Shiba H, et al. Postoperative peripheral absolute blood lymphocyte-to-monocyte ratio predicts therapeutic outcome after pancreatic resection in patients with pancreatic adenocarcinoma. *Anticancer Res.* 2014;34(9):5163–5168.
18. Qi Q, Geng Y, Sun M, Wang P, Chen Z. Clinical implications of systemic inflammatory response markers as independent prognostic factors for advanced pancreatic cancer. *Pancreatol.* 2015;15(2):145–150.
19. Qi Q, Zhuang L, Shen Y, et al. A novel systemic inflammation response index (SIRI) for predicting the survival of patients with pancreatic cancer after chemotherapy. *Cancer Am Cancer Soc.* 2016;122(14):2158–2167.
20. Stang A. Critical evaluation of the Newcastle-Ottawa scale for the assessment of the quality of nonrandomized studies in meta-analyses. *Eur J Epidemiol.* 2010;25(9):603–605.
21. Mantovani A. Cancer: inflaming metastasis. *Nature.* 2009;457(7225):36–37.
22. Hanahan D, Weinberg RA. Hallmarks of cancer: the next generation. *Cell.* 2011;144(5):646–674.
23. Ben Q, An W, Wang L, Wang W, Yu L, Yuan Y. Validation of the pre-treatment neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio as a predictor of overall survival in a cohort of patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *Pancreas.* 2015;44(3):471–477.
24. Zhao QT, Yuan Z, Zhang H, et al. Prognostic role of platelet to lymphocyte ratio in non-small cell lung cancers: a meta-analysis including 3,720 patients. *Int J Cancer.* 2016;139(1):164–170.
25. Templeton AJ, Ace O, McNamara MG, et al. Prognostic role of platelet to lymphocyte ratio in solid tumors: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 2014;23(7):1204–1212.
26. Diakos CI, Charles KA, McMillan DC, Clarke SJ. Cancer-related inflammation and treatment effectiveness. *Lancet Oncol.* 2014;15(11):e493–e503.
27. von Bernstorff W, Voss M, Freichel S, et al. Systemic and local immunosuppression in pancreatic cancer patients. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2001;7(Suppl 3):925s–932s.
28. Fogar P, Sperti C, Basso D, et al. Decreased total lymphocyte counts in pancreatic cancer: an index of adverse outcome. *Pancreas.* 2006;32(1):22–28.
29. Man YG, Stojadinovic A, Mason J, et al. Tumor-infiltrating immune cells promoting tumor invasion and metastasis: existing theories. *J Cancer.* 2013;4(1):84–95.
30. Milne K, Alexander C, Webb JR, et al. Absolute lymphocyte count is associated with survival in ovarian cancer independent of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes. *J Transl Med.* 2012;10:33.
31. Haruki K, Shiba H, Fujiwara Y, et al. Perioperative change in peripheral blood monocyte count may predict prognosis in patients with colorectal liver metastasis after hepatic resection. *J Surg Oncol.* 2012;106(1):31–35.
32. Dunn GP, Old LJ, Schreiber RD. The immunobiology of cancer immunosurveillance and immunoediting. *Immunity.* 2004;21(2):137–148.
33. Zikos TA, Donnenberg AD, Landreneau RJ, Luketich JD, Donnenberg VS. Lung T-cell subset composition at the time of surgical resection is a prognostic indicator in non-small cell lung cancer. *Cancer Immunol Immunother.* 2011;60(6):819–827.
34. Minami T, Minami T, Shimizu N, et al. Identification of programmed death ligand 1-derived peptides capable of inducing cancer-reactive cytotoxic T lymphocytes from HLA-A24+ patients with renal cell carcinoma. *J Immunother.* 2015;38(7):285–291.
35. Rosenberg SA. Progress in human tumour immunology and immunotherapy. *Nature.* 2001;411(6835):380–384.
36. Sasaki A, Kai S, Endo Y, et al. Prognostic value of preoperative peripheral blood monocyte count in patients with colorectal liver metastasis after liver resection. *J Gastrointest Surg.* 2007;11(5):596–602.
37. Sasaki A, Iwashita Y, Shibata K, Matsumoto T, Ohta M, Kitano S. Prognostic value of preoperative peripheral blood monocyte count in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. *Surgery.* 2006;139(6):755–764.
38. Condeelis J, Pollard JW. Macrophages: obligate partners for tumor cell migration, invasion, and metastasis. *Cell.* 2006;124(2):263–266.
39. Pollard JW. Tumour-educated macrophages promote tumour progression and metastasis. *Nat Rev Cancer.* 2004;4(1):71–78.
40. Lee HW, Choi HJ, Ha SJ, Lee KT, Kwon YG. Recruitment of monocytes/macrophages in different tumor microenvironments. *Biochim Biophys Acta.* 2013;1835(2):170–179.
41. Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG; PRISMA Group. Preferred reporting items for systematic reviews and meta-analyses: the PRISMA statement. *Int J Surg.* 2010;8(5):336–341.
42. Higgins JP, Thompson SG, Deeks JJ, Altman DG. Measuring inconsistency in meta-analyses. *BMJ.* 2003;327(7414):557–560.

## OncoTargets and Therapy

### Publish your work in this journal

OncoTargets and Therapy is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal focusing on the pathological basis of all cancers, potential targets for therapy and treatment protocols employed to improve the management of cancer patients. The journal also focuses on the impact of management programs and new therapeutic agents and protocols on

Submit your manuscript here: <http://www.dovepress.com/oncotargets-and-therapy-journal>

patient perspectives such as quality of life, adherence and satisfaction. The manuscript management system is completely online and includes a very quick and fair peer-review system, which is all easy to use. Visit <http://www.dovepress.com/testimonials.php> to read real quotes from published authors.

Dovepress