## Earnings Management and Operating Performance of Exchange Listings

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to investigate the operating performance around exchange listings and the association of earnings management before listing with performance changes after listing. By examining firms changing from the OTC market to the Taiwan Stock Exchange (TSE) during 1992-2003, we find that: (1)The operating performance of sample firms following the listing is poorer than that in the pre-listing period. However, the performance appears to decline before the listing rather than after the listing, suggesting that firms seem not to self-select exchange listing time at perks of operating performance. (2)There is little evidence of earnings management around exchange listings. Besides, the relation between pre-listing discretionary current accruals and the post-listing performance changes is insignificant. The possible reason for such results may be that, compared with the IPOs, these firms have been public for a length of period in OTC market, and more information is available, thereby reducing managers 'incentives for the manipulation of reported earnings.

Keywords: Exchange listings; Earnings management; Operating performance; Discretionary current accruals

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