

August 25, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 12300-review.doc).

Title: Stratifying the risk of lymph node metastasis in undifferentiated-type early gastric cancer

Author: Yukiko Asakawa, Masahiko Ohtaka, Shinya Maekawa, Mitsuharu Fukasawa, Yasuhiro Nakayama, Tatsuya Yamaguchi, Taisuke Inoue, Tomoyoshi Uetake, Minoru Sakamoto, Tadashi Sato, Yoshihiko Kawaguchi, Hideki Fujii, Kunio Mochizuki, Masao Hada, Toshio Oyama, Tomotaka Yasumura, Kosaku Omata, Atsushi Nishiyama, Keiichi Naito, Hideo Hata, Yoshiaki Haba, Kazuyuki Miyata, Haruhisa Saitoh, Yoichi Yamadera, Kazuo Miura, Akira Kawaoi, Tohru Abe, Hajime Tsunoda, Yuji Honda, Masayuki Kurosaki, and Nobuyuki Enomoto

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 12300

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Responses to Comments of Reviewers

(1) Reviewer 2459561

It is necessary to review your manuscript by somebody whose mother tongue is English. It is necessary to write the manuscript more simply for the readers to keep up with your intention to express.

Answer

Thanks for the comment. We have revised the manuscript in accordance with these suggestions.

(2) Reviewer 02861777

Minor point: when the authors evaluate preoperatively evaluable factors, they cite depth and size; but what about histology? They obviously evaluated pre-operative biopsies. This point should be emphasized and described.

Answer

Thanks for the comment. Since histology was not associated with LNM in the univariate analysis, it was considered that histology was not a useful factor for LNM prediction irrespective of preoperative or postoperative analysis. Description on histology was added in the Discussion section of the manuscript (page 12 line 17 -20).

On the other hand, as written in the method section, patho-histological information used in the study was obtained at surgery on paper-bases (page 8 line 13 -15). Therefore, in the analysis of preoperatively evaluable patho-histological factors (of histology, depth and size), the analysis was performed based on the assumption that the patho-histological information (of histology, depth and size) obtained at surgery was preoperatively obtained with endoscopic observation and endoscopic biopsies (page 15 line 9 -12). It is true that such

assumption-based analysis is one of the limitations in this study. However, considering that true preoperative histological diagnosis based on biopsies could be more inaccurate than the postoperative histological diagnosis, the influence of histology on LNM would be low. Collectively, we consider that the present analysis might be applicable in clinical practice though further prospective study is warranted (page 15 line 16 -17).

3 References and typesetting were corrected

The first page of reference 27 was also attached and uploaded as a separate file.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Masahiko Ohtaka". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Masahiko Ohtaka, MD, PhD

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