

**January 20, 2012**

Dear Editor

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 1418-review.doc).

**Title:** Ultrasound-guided versus endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration for diagnosis of pancreatic cancer

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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 1418

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

1 Format has been updated

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

(1) The description of exclusion criteria is unclear and may require the use of tables.

- Thank you for your important suggestion. We added exclusion criteria and also added the 2 cases in whom EUS-FNA examination could not be performed because of poor visualization and difficulty in securing the puncture route, respectively.

(2) Both in "Results" and "Discussion" the interesting and still debated problem of potential seeding of cancer cells through the use of percutaneous US puncture is ignored.

- Thank you for suggesting this good point. We suggest that there is little possibility of cancer seeding, and we had no cases of seeding in the present study, but we should mention about the possibility of cancer cell seeding as an adverse event. We modified statements in the "Results" and "Discussion" by accepting previous reports about seeding events.

(3) The influence of the presence of a cytology screener during the endoscopic procedure regarding the adequacy of the obtained specimens is not mentioned nor analyzed.

- Thank you for pointing this out. The presence of a cytology screener was closely related to the high rate of adequate specimens in the EUS-FNA group. We added sentences in the "Discussion".

(4) Writing style requires minor review.

- Thank you for pointing this out. We changed the manuscript according to your suggestion.

(5) Most of the references are outdated.

- Thank you for pointing this out. We added some recent papers as references.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for your consideration of our revised manuscript for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Masato Matsuyama".

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