

*Department of Surgical Oncology,
Osaka City University Medical School*



1-4-3 Asahimachi, Abeno-ku, Osaka 545-8585
PHONE; 06-6645-3838, FAX; 06-6646-6450

December 2, 2014

Dear Editor:

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 14434-review.doc).

Title: Sentinel node navigation surgery for gastric cancer: overview and perspective – a review–

Authors: Masakazu Yahsiro and Tasuku Matsuoka

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 14434

I greatly appreciate your invitation for us to re-submit our manuscript “Sentinel node navigation surgery for gastric cancer: overview and perspective – a review–”. I would like to thank the reviewers for detailed comments and suggestions for improvement in my manuscript. I have carefully considered the referees’ comments and have made point-by-point responses as described below. Also, I highlight all changes in the revised manuscript. This manuscript is not being considered in whole or in part by any other journal. I believe the revised paper will interest the readers of World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery.

Thank you very much for the careful reviews of the reviewer #1 2504712. I correct several points according to the descriptions by the reviewer, as described below. I indicate the changes point by point and added them in the revised paper.

1. **There are some English Language violations which need to be corrected to convey the overall message of the article.**

We appreciate the reviewer’s comments and apologize for the careless mistakes. The entire manuscript has been carefully rewritten to correct English grammar and spelling and to make the manuscript as clear as possible.

2. **There are some abbreviations used without full word explanation.**

Response: We apologize for the careless mistakes. We have checked abbreviations carefully and added full word explanation (page 6, line 23 and page 10, line 22)

3. **The authors need to embrace the review methodology throughout the manuscript.**

The title should have the term review or systematic review, the search methodology should be outlined (how were the articles identified and was the review systematic or selective).

Response: According to the reviewer's comments, we added terms to the title of the manuscript as "Sentinel node navigation surgery for gastric cancer: overview and perspective – a review –". And we have described "Methods" section to explain how we have selected the articles, as follows.

Data source and search strategy

Literature searches of electronic PubMed, Embase, and Cochrane Library were performed for English-language articles to identify articles published until September 2014 that described SNNS in gastric cancer. The terms "gastric carcinoma", "gastric cancer", "sentinel", "mapping", "navigation surgery" were utilized. The abstracts were reviewed, and articles that were not associated with to the specific topic were excluded. Duplicate references as well as repeated publications were discarded. All of the studies that were considered to be eligible were retrieved and the final selection was based on the full article.

Study selection

We included randomized and controlled clinical trials or experimental studies (excluding case reports). Studies were considered without restrictions on duration of follow-up. First, the titles were screened and appropriate studies were selected. Of these studies, the full text was acquired.

4. The article is currently presented as a monograph. As such, it lacks scientific rigour and presenting it as a review (with a small amount of revision) should improve the rate of the manuscript.

Response: Yes, we agree. As the reviewer's recommendation, we add the term in the title and methodology. We believe it is desirable to describe the experimental study in addition to clinical data for getting this article to be more valuable.

5. The methods used and results should be presented separately and then commented on in the discussion.

Response: Thank you for the kind suggestions. We appreciate the reviewer's comments. As the reviewer mentioned, we have added the methodology of study selection and made the organization of our manuscript more clear. Also, results and discussion were

presented separately.

We hope you will seriously consider this report for publication in *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

Sincerely yours

Masakazu Yashiro

Masakazu Yashiro, MD, PhD

Department of Surgical Oncology, Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine,
1-4-3 Asahi-machi, Abeno-ku, Osaka 545-8585, Japan

TEL; (+81) 6-6645-3838

FAX; (+81) 6-6646-6450