

Manuscript Number 19212

Manuscript Title: Enhanced Recovery after surgery (ERAS) with laparoscopic-assisted gastrectomy for advanced gastric cancer: a randomized controlled trial

To reviewer's comment [Reviewed by 02552068]

The topic of the manuscript is very interesting, with many important issues that could be considered relevant for the clinical practice. Nevertheless, I would like you to provide some more criticism in the discussion. For example, the study is randomized of course, but the discharge criteria together with the clinical decisions regarding the oral intake, drainage extraction etc...should be managed by clinicians NOT involved in the study. In other words, if a patient is randomized to the ERAS pathway, the clinicians could be influenced to accelerate the discharge rather than to judge the patient's conditions itself. Please consider these aspects in the discussion.

We agree this comment.

In current RCT study, to avoid the influences from clinicians, all operations were performed by a single surgeon group, but the discharge criteria were managed by independent clinicians who not involved in the study. We have added these criticism in the Methods and Discussion Parts.(Pages8,Lines7-9;Pages12,Lines 5-9.)

Please also expand a little the methods paragraph in order to better explain the postoperative details of patients' care (however, do not repeat the corresponding table).

We agree this comment.

In order to better explain the postoperative details of patients' care, a paragraph "Postoperative care" has been added. (Page 7,Lines 10-19.)

Lastly, please specify the TNM stage of the tumours rather the T parameter only.

We agree this comment.

The TNM stage of the tumors has been added in to Table.3 (Pages 22, Lines 9-13)

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