

September 18, 2015

Dear Editor and Reviewer,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 21243-Revised manuscript.doc).

Title: Risk factors for Tuberculosis after gastrectomy in gastric cancer

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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

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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 reviewers

Response to reviewer No 2860614.

Grammar mistakes are there. Why all of the patients who went for gastrectomies due to any reason were not enrolled in the study?

We corrected errors using language editing services provided by “textcheck”. Recently, gastrectomy is usually not performed in patients with other diseases than gastric cancer. In addition, follow-up loss of patients occurred frequently in patients with benign disease. Thus we included only patients with gastric cancer. In addition, we tried to compose homogenous cohort group.

Response to reviewer No 503062.

The manuscript by Jung et al. examined incidence of tuberculosis in gastrectomy patients and analyze risk factors for tuberculosis after gastrectomy in gastric cancer. The topic of this manuscript is interesting and the manuscript is basically well written. Especially, it is interesting that the gastrectomy extent (total versus subtotal gastrectomy) affect the incidence of tuberculosis. The limitation of this study is that the number of active tuberculosis patients is low (n=16) compared with that of not active tuberculosis patients.

Thanks for your comments. We have added that as limitation in the discussion section.

It is better to show Table 1 and Table 2 in each one page if possible.

We also acknowledge that it is better to show table in one page. However, we investigated more diverse parameters not only associated with the risk of TB but also those related to surgery and gastric cancer than previous study. We considered it could be one of our strength. So, we would like to include data in table.

Minor points are as follows. Page 1, title; Page 3, lines 4, 5 from bottom. "Tuberculosis" is not necessary to start with capital (T) if it is not the first word in a sentence. Page 3, line 13; line 2 from bottom, page 10, line 14; page 7, line 3 from bottom. "per 1 kg/m2" should be "kg/m2". Page 8, line 10. Show the reference number of "one recent study". Page 11, lines 8-14. The title of reference # 3 is too long. Check it again.

We are sorry for the some incorrect writing. We have corrected everything you have pointed out.

Response to reviewer No 608210.

1. Gastrectomy is a risk factor for TB. I wonder why the authors did not enroll all patients who underwent gastrectomies from any causes.

Recently, gastrectomy is usually not performed in patients with other diseases than gastric cancer. In addition, follow-up loss of patients occurred frequently in patients with benign disease. Thus we included only patients with gastric cancer. In addition, we tried to compose homogenous cohort group.

2. Because TB is an indolent disease and may be asymptomatic, I would like to know that every cases in this study performed CXR before gastrectomies. In addition, after gastrectomy, in the authors' institute, how often does CXR routinely perform?

We routinely performed CXR in all patients before gastrectomy as a preoperative evaluation. In addition, after gastrectomy, we performed CXR annually.

3. The authors showed 95% of patients were followed for more than 1 year. As stated above that TB is an indolent disease. Is it possible to show how many patients were followed more than 2 years after gastrectomies.

92.1% (1609/1747) of patients were followed for more than 2 years among survivors. We have added this description in the results section.

4. The authors showed the incidence of TB after gastrectomy. Please also provide the incidence of TB in general population in South Korea during the study period.

According to your comments, we have changed the sentence properly in the introduction section. "the annual incidence was 89.4 cases per 100 000 person-years in 2008"

5. Some words and grammar error.

We corrected errors using language editing services provided by “textcheck”.