

Institutional review board statement

Fukui Kosei Hospital Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews the ethical aspects of a research protocol and the informed consent process.

As far as we are concerned, case reports do not require informed consent if researchers can protect the right to anonymity and confidentiality. However, research on anonymized data contains the risk of de-anonymization by combining the anonymized data with other open information sources. Therefore, it is better to acquire informed consent by those involved in the case reports, even if we believe that the anonymity and confidentiality of the patient is being ensured.

Fukui Kosei Hospital IRB has made a decision to gain patients' permission prior to submission. **We confirmed that the patients whose medical records were written in the case report have provided their consent for its publication.**

The case report study titled as "*Gastric adenocarcinoma of fundic gland type: report of four cases*" has been reviewed and ethically approved by the Fukui Kosei Hospital IRB.

July 24, 2015

Fukui Kosei Hospital Institutional Review Board

