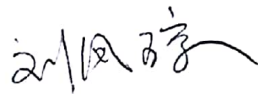**Biostatistics statement:**

Title: The N classification for early gastric cancer should differ from those of advanced gastric cancer: Results based on the SEER database

The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Department of Statistics, College of Public Health, Fujian Medical University. Fuzhou, Fujian Province, China.

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