

**Reviewer's code:** 03012124

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is an interesting meta-analysis study about the comparison of ESD with surgical gastrectomy for early gastric cancer. In this study, the authors eligibled fourteen studies (5112 patients) for analysis. The data is very big and informative. Comparisons of clinical parameters or outcomes between ESD and resection surgery for EGC are still lacking and controversial. Although several previous meta-analysis either enrolled limited studies nor didn't include the survival comparison, the long-term outcomes in patients with sufficient follow-up who have undergone ESD and surgery remain unclear. In this aspect, this met-analysis is meaningful, and useful. The results are excellent, and well discussed. I have no specific comments. Only some minor language polishing should be corrected.

**Author Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's comments and encouragement. And we

**Reviewer's code:** 02992676

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The endoscopic submucosal dissection technique is now a more acceptable endoscopic approach for the treatment of early gastric cancer without lymph node metastasis compared to endoscopic mucosal resection. It has been confirmed that endoscopic submucosal dissection involves the resection of both benign neoplastic and malignant noninvasive lesions, and enjoys the advantages of higher curative resection and histologically complete resection rate, and lower local recurrence rate for early gastric cancers. However, the long-term outcomes in patients with sufficient follow-up who have undergone endoscopic submucosal dissection and surgery remain unclear. In this study, the safety and efficacy of the short- and long-term outcomes between endoscopic submucosal dissection and resection surgery are compared. 1 Overall, this study is well designed, and the methods are described in detail. Results are interesting and meaningful. 2 The criterias for inclusion and exclusion are proper. And number of

studies included are big. 3 The figure 3 and figure 5 are very small, it's difficult to read the words in the figures. Big and more clear figures should be provided. 4 Table 1 is good And figure 1 made a good flow chart of study enrollment. 5 The limitations are listed in the discussion section. Are there any plans to display a update met-analysis study? Any proposes ways to resolve those limitations? 6 A minor language editing is required.

**Author Response:** Thanks for the reviewer's comment, as the reviewer suggested, we have replaced Figure 3 and Figure 5 with more clear and larger image. And we have searched the latest articles relating to the subject and will keep an eye on it in the future.

**Reviewer's code:** 02992570

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This study is a comprehensive meta-analysis comparing clinical outcomes between ESD and surgery in treating EGC. The patient numbers involve are very big. The advantages of ESD for the treatment of early gastric cancer are confirmed. The manuscript is very well written, however, an editing or update according to the journal's style is required. Also, some minor language polishing should be corrected.

**Author Response:** Thanks a lot for the reviewer's comments. And we have had our manuscript polished in English writing and format changed according to the journal's requirements.