

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



September 28, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 4609-review.doc).

Title: Sixth and Seventh TNM Staging System compared in Gastric Cancer Patients

Authors: Tommaso Zurleni, Elson Gjoni, Andrea Ballabio, Roberto Casieri, Paola Ceriani, Luca Marzoli and Francesco Zurleni

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 4609

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 reviewer

(1) Reviewer n° 00070573: This manuscript analyzed the newly classification of gastric cancer by comparing to the 6th edition. It might support an interesting point for readers to think about the usefulness of new TMN classification. So the study would be accepted to publish with some changes as follow. (1)It should be better for the readers to understand if the author introduced the 6th and 7th TMN classification in one table.

We added the Table n° 1

(2) Reviewer n° 00183059: This study investigated validation of 7th TNM classification of gastric cancer comparing to 6th edition. This paper might be interesting to think about the usefulness of new TMN classification. Thus, I determined this study would be acceptable in your journal " World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery" with some changes. I pointed out 2 sites to be revised. 1) It might be better to introduce the 6th and 7th TMN classification as a table. If the author shows this, it may help for the better understanding of this paper to readers. 2) In the " result, survival analysis by stage" section. The author mentioned "About shift of state, important changes in term of survival.....(Table2). I could not understand what author really would like to say form this analysis. Thus, additional explanation is needed.

1) We added the Table n° 1

2) We added this additional explanation:

(RESULTS)...Important changes regarding the survival rates and stage reclassification were observed in our analysis.

As shown in Table 3, the patients assigned stages using the sixth edition (orizzontally) exhibit a statistically significant difference in the prognosis when reclassified in a different stage according to the seventh edition criteria. However, a statistically significant difference in the prognosis was not observed when comparing the prognosis of patients assigned stages using the seventh edition criteria (vertically) with the stages assigned using the sixth edition. (Table 3)

(DISCUSSION)... The changes in the parameters N and T have generated stage migration, which confirms the superiority of the 7th ed. of the TNM system. The new TNM edition groups patients with similar prognoses and separates subjects with different prognoses better that the previous version of the TNM system (Table 3).

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Zurleni'.

Tommaso ZURLeni, MD
Department of General Surgery
Hospital of Busto Arsizio
Busto Arsizio, Piazzale Solaro 3
21052, Italy
Fax: +39 331-699578
E-mail: tzurleni@yahoo.it