

Date: June 26, 2019

Dear Editor:

Enclosed please find a manuscript entitled "Additional laparoscopic gastrectomy after noncurative endoscopic submucosal dissection for early gastric cancer: a single-center experience at the National Cancer Center in China" for your consideration for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

As you suggested the title should be no more than 12 words, I have changed the title to "Additional laparoscopic gastrectomy after noncurative endoscopic submucosal dissection for early gastric cancer: a single-center experience" .

As you said that similar sentences with other articles should be less than 30%, I have rephrased these sentences. All of the revisions of language are highlighted in the updated version of the manuscript.

We did not report long-term outcomes of patients with noncurative ESD because the mean follow-up period was too short. If patients after noncurative ESD of EGC do not have risk of residual cancer or lymph node metastasis, additional gastrectomy may be unnecessary. Therefore, we analysed the patients' clinicopathological data and identified the predictors of residual cancer or lymph node metastasis. ESD-induced inflammation causes edema,

fibrosis, and intraabdominal adhesions, which might increase the difficulties and the risk of complications during subsequent laparoscopic gastrectomy. If laparoscopic gastrectomy has very high postoperative complications, additional gastrectomy should be considered carefully. So, we assessed the safety and feasibility of laparoscopic gastrectomy. The need for informed consent was waived due to the retrospective nature of the study, and the data were anonymously analyzed. I had added the statement of informed consents in the manuscript. Thank you for your kind comments. I made careful literature review about ESD for gastric cancer and additional gastrectomy after noncurative ESD. I also read *Japanese gastric cancer treatment guidelines 2010 (ver. 3)* again. So “horizontal” and “vertical” were used.

I have provided the grant application certificate of funding agency. I have finished the part of article highlights following your reminder.

Best Regards.

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