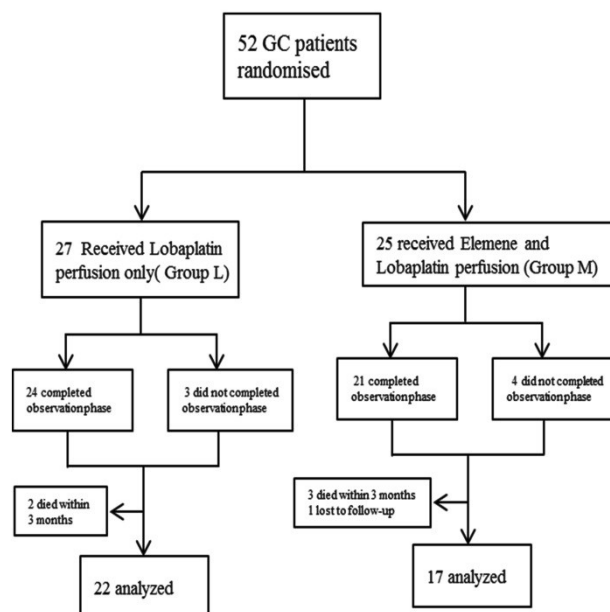


Response to reviewers' comments

Major 1. I think this study is prospective but not retrospective as a total of 39 patients were randomly divided into two groups. Therefore, the authors should provide a flow chart of the study process including excluded patients.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the constructive comments, and for pointing out the mistakes. We have corrected these in the revised manuscript. In the study, 52 patients diagnosed with PGC by laparoscopy were enrolled, but only 39 cases were included. A flowchart for this process was plotted in the revised manuscript.



2. The authors concluded that the elemene-containing HIPEC combined with CapeOx reduction regimen can extend the overall survival. However, its predominance regarding the OS was not statistically proven in this study. Please reconsider the conclusion.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the insightful comments. We apologize for the error, and we have corrected this in the revised manuscript.

3. The composition of the contents seems unsophisticated. A kind of methods was described in the Results section, a sentence including discussion was found in the Results section, *some contents which should be written in the introduction section were described in the Discussion section*, and most description in the conclusion should be written in the Discussion section. Please reconsider them.

Response: We appreciate the suggestion of the reviewer. We reorganized the descriptions in all sections (Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and Conclusion) to smoothen the logic. Meanwhile, we also expanded the discussion.

Minor 1. (Title) Please spell out “HIPEC” and “CapeOx”.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the reminder. These two abbreviations were spelled out. In addition, we followed the instructions in the decision letter regarding the abbreviations, and removed the abbreviation HIPEC and CapeOx in the title. Furthermore, we defined all abbreviations upon first appearance in the Core Tip, Main Text, and Article highlights.

2. Please explain why the patients with hypertension were excluded.

Response: It has been shown that hypertension is associated with the overall survival of gastric cancer patients at both early (PLoS One 2014 Mar 5;9(3):e89965.) and late stages (Oncotarget. 2018 Apr 27; 9(32): 22332–22339.). Thus, we excluded these patients to rule out the potential influence of hypertension on the prognosis evaluation.

3. The authors should provide the data of other treatment before and after these regimens.

Response: We have added the treatment information in the *Treatment information* section of the revised manuscript.

4. (Table1) Please provide the data of the performance status.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the suggestion. We have added the ECOG scores of the patients in Table 1.

5. (Table 1) “Abdominal infection” is duplicated.

Response: We thank the reviewer for pointing this out, and we apologize for the mistake. The duplicated content was removed in the revised manuscript.

6. (P13L16-17) Please spell out “FLOT4” and “DCF”.

Response: We have added detailed information for these two abbreviations.

7. (Figure 1) Please draw the line of Group M clearly.

Response: We thank the reviewer for the suggestion. We re-plotted the graph, and made the lines that represented Groups L and M clearer.