

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



February 17, 2015

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16162-Review.doc).

Title: Lymph node pick up by separate stations: Option or necessity?

Author: Paolo Morgagni, Oriana Nanni, Elisa Carretta, Mattia Altini, Luca Saragoni, Fabio Falcini, Domenico Garcea

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16162

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:

Reviewed by 02731948

Minor language polishing.

Reply: The text has been reviewed for English language content.

Reviewed by 03017210

I have only few comments for your study. 1. Survival for gastric cancer depends on numbers of lymph node metastasis. Adequate lymph dissection for separate lymph node station could improve survival. Retrieved numbers of lymph nodes depends on surgical technique and accurate examination of lymph nodes in specimen by pathologist. Retrieved total lymph node numbers can not predict prognosis in gastric cancer. 2. In Figure 2 (B), the index for more than 16 lymph nodes is missing.

Reply: 1. We agree with the reviewer's comment about improved prognosis after adequate lymphatic dissection. We also agree that the procedure does not, in itself, improve survival, a concept included in the original version of the paper (page 12, lines 4-5):

"The dissection of separate stations only represents a technical procedure and cannot be considered as a therapeutic option designed to improve survival."

We have now added a comment to the Core Tip to underline this point even more.

2. The missing part of the figure has been added.

Reviewed by 0011171

Minor language polishing.

Reply: The text has been reviewed for English language content.

3 References and typesetting were corrected.

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

Yours sincerely,

Paolo Morgagni, MD
Corresponding Author