

## **Biostatistics Statement**

### **Name of Journal:**

World Journal of Gastroenterology

### **Manuscript Type:**

Prospective Study

### **Title:**

Long-term prognostic impact of circulating tumour cells in gastric cancer patients

### **Authors List:**

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All statistical analysis was performed using JMP Pro 12.2.0 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC, USA). Non-parametric comparisons were performed by the Wilcoxon signed-rank test, with a normal approximation. ROC analysis was performed to examine the difference between GFP fluorescence intensity and cell size in the blood samples of patients versus those in healthy volunteers. Cox proportional hazards analysis was used to investigate risk factors for survival, and to calculate overall and relapse-free survival rates.  $P \leq 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

Statistical analysis was mainly performed by Hiroaki Ito who has a expert knowledge of biostatistics.