

Dear Editor and reviewer:

Thank you very much for your helpful reviewing and constructive suggestion, we have adjusted the article accordingly. Below you will find the list of your questions and our response.

Reviewer:

(1) Pancreatic cancer can lead to a hypercoagulable state and cause obvious thrombosis in the patient, in which fibrinogen plays a vital role. This is true; however, fibrinogen is not routinely examined in the patients with pancreatic cancer. Your study is a retrospective study, and it seems to me that it is very difficult to obtain fibrinogen data from the all patients registered in this study.

Answer:

For patients about to receive surgery, routine preoperative blood coagulation examination was performed in our hospital, including fibrinogen (FIB), fibrinogen reduction product (FDP), D-dimer, prothrombin time (PT), partial thromboplastin time (APTT), thrombin time (TT). All routine blood coagulation results including fibrinogen can be viewed at any time in the hospital information system.

(2) The definition of R0 resection is somewhat different according to the institution and criteria. Its definition should be described.

Answer:

We use the standards recommended by International Study Group of Pancreatic Surgery (ISGPS), the definition of R0 resection is no tumor cells within 1 mm from resection margins. The revised content in our manuscript now reads:

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Patients

The inclusion criteria were as follows: ... 3) the pathologic diagnosis was pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma and underwent radical R0 resection (no tumor cells within 1 mm from the resection margins^[23]); ...

...

REFERENCES

...

23 **Bockhorn M**, Uzunoglu FG, Adham M, Imrie C, Milicevic M, Sandberg AA, Asbun HJ, Bassi C, Büchler M, Charnley RM, Conlon K, Cruz LF, Dervenis C, Fingerhutt A, Friess H, Gouma DJ, Hartwig W, Lillemoe KD, Montorsi M, Neoptolemos JP, Shrikhande SV, Takaori K, Traverso W, Vashist YK, Vollmer C, Yeo CJ, Izbicki JR; International Study Group of Pancreatic Surgery. Borderline resectable pancreatic cancer: a consensus statement by the International Study Group of Pancreatic Surgery (ISGPS). *Surgery* 2014; **155**: 977-988 [PMID: 24856119 DOI: 10.1016/j.surg.2014.02.001]

(3) *The approved number (ID) by the Medical Ethics Committee of the National Cancer Center/Cancer Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences should be described in the manuscript.*

Answer:

The approved number is 17-168/1424, and the revised content in our manuscript now reads:

MATERIALS AND METHODS

...

Ethical statement

The study was conducted ... by the Medical Ethics Committee of the National Cancer Center/Cancer Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (approval No. 17-168/1424). ...

(4) *P value of 0.000 is not acceptable. The real data should be described.*

Answer:

Thank you for your reminder. All *P* values of 0.000 were replaced with < 0.001 in the manuscript.

(5) *Multivariate analysis showed that preoperative FAR and lymph node metastasis were independent risk factors for the OS of patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma after radical R0 resection, and the P value of FAR (0.000) was less than that of lymph node metastasis (0.008). This description is not correct, because preoperative CA19-9 and adjuvant therapy are also independent prognostic factors, and especially, p-value of CA19-9 is also 0.000.*

Answer:

We agree with your comments and revise relevant section in the manuscript as follows:

DISCUSSION

Our results showed ... Further multivariate analysis showed that preoperative FAR ($P < 0.001$), degree of differentiation ($P < 0.001$), number of metastatic lymph nodes ($P = 0.008$), adjuvant therapy ($P = 0.001$) and preoperative CA19-9 level ($P < 0.001$) were independent prognostic factors for the OS of patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma after radical R0 resection.

...

Science Editor:

(1) I found the authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s);

Answer:

We have uploaded the approval documents.

(2) I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;

Answer:

We have provided decomposable Figures and Tables, organized them into a single file separately, and submitted as 59685-Figures.ppt and 59685-Tables.docx uploaded to the F6Publishing system.

(3) I found the authors did not write the “article highlight” section. Please write the “article highlights” section at the end of the main text.

Answer:

We have written the “ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS” section at the end of the main text.

Best Regards.

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