

Answer to Reviewer

Thank you for your important comments, which were extremely helpful for improving the quality of our manuscript.

Reviewer #1: This paper compared endoscopic gastritis based on Kyoto classification between diffuse and intestinal gastric cancer. I enjoyed reading this paper. However, there are some problems to be resolved. 1. It is suggested that the authors should estimate the sample size for the number of patients included in the study. 2. The authors developed the Lauren predictive background score for predicting the classification of gastric cancer. Can this score be used in a prospective study to evaluate the accuracy of Lauren classification? 3. English should be improved.

According to your comments, we estimate the sample size. We estimate 132 patients (39 patients with diffuse type cancer, and 93 patients with intestinal type cancer) to detect 1.7 points difference in the Lauren predictive background score (standard deviation 1.4), with 80% power and a two-sided alpha of 0.05.

As you pointed out, a prospective study should evaluate the accuracy of the Lauren predictive background score. This study was a retrospective study. We added the following comments into the limitation section of the revised manuscript; In addition, further investigations using prospective study designs are needed to evaluate the accuracy of the Lauren predictive background score. The sample size for that study would be 26 (8 patients with diffuse type cancer, and 19 patients with intestinal type cancer).

In the process of revise, we considered a more suitable title and changed the title.

From; Comparison of endoscopic gastritis based on Kyoto classification between diffuse and intestinal gastric cancer

To; Patient backgrounds including endoscopic findings predict Lauren classification of gastric cancer

We also added a patient flowchart as Figure 1.