

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

Manuscript NO: 84494

Title: Histological study of the structural layers around the esophagus in the lower mediastinum

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 03270609

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Russia

Author's Country/Territory: Japan

Manuscript submission date: 2023-03-20

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-03-23 09:25

Reviewer performed review: 2023-03-26 09:09

Review time: 2 Days and 23 Hours

Scientific quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Manuscript NO: 84494 Title: Histological study of the structural layers around the esophagus in the lower mediastinum Unfortunately, the incidence and mortality from cancer of the esophagus and cardia continues to grow in the world. The most common localization is the esophageal-gastric junction. In the initial and local stages of the disease, the main method of treatment is a surgical method, including regional lymph node dissection. However, this localization, characterized by a complex relationship of anatomical structures of the mediastinum, is clearly insufficiently studied. In particular, the localization of the lymphatic structures of the mediastinum, as well as the peculiarities of the blood supply to the esophagus, have not been sufficiently studied, which can affect the effectiveness of operations performed, especially endoscopic ones. In this regard, the manuscript presented by the authors is of undoubted interest, and the results obtained may be of practical importance in planning and performing surgical interventions for diseases of the lower third of the esophagus and cancer of the esophagogastric junction. In addition, the authors' assumptions are interesting that the intermediate area on the dorsal side of the esophagus may be a barrier preventing the



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7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

invasion of tumors of the abdominal esophagus and esophageal-gastric junction into the aorta. The manuscript is well structured, the information is logically and consistently presented in good English. The text is well illustrated with pictures. The tables below supplement the information in the manuscript. There are several issues that may require clarification of the authors (at the discretion of the authors). 1. Duration of fixation of corpses in 10% formalin? 2. Unfortunately, when stained with antibodies to podoplanin, marker expression is often observed not only in lymphatic endothelial cells, but also in other stromal cells. In cancer, expression can also be observed in tumor cells. This fact is well documented in the scientific literature. Perhaps it makes sense to explain in which case the positive staining of the marker was regarded as expression in the endothelial cells of the lymphatic vessels. 3. Figure 1. Perhaps it will be more clear if you label the appropriate structures of the mediastinum, as you did in Figures 2 and 3.

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Reviewer's code: 03242050

Position: Editorial Board

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Doctor, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Japan

Manuscript submission date: 2023-03-20

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-03-27 14:41

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-01 14:09

Review time: 4 Days and 23 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript titled, Histological study of the structural layers around the esophagus in the lower mediastinum. There are no important problems with the methodology, but the findings of the study are underwhelming and of limited clinical significance.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05392847

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: India

Author's Country/Territory: Japan

Manuscript submission date: 2023-03-20

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-04-09 13:00

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-09 14:38

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Nil