

September 4, 2014

Su-Xin Gou
Science Editor
World Journal of Gastroenterology



Title: Impact of mortality reduction from gastric cancer by endoscopic screening
Author: Chisato Hamashima
Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS Manuscript NO: 12942

Dear Dr.Gou,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: **HAMA_12942_140904.doc**).

We would like to submit our revised manuscript entitled, “**Impact of mortality reduction from gastric cancer by endoscopic screening**” by Hamashima et al.

We appreciate all the constructive comments of the reviewers and the opportunity to submit a revised version of our manuscript.

We carefully revised our paper in accordance with all the comments raised. Our point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ comments are shown below. The corresponding changes in the revised manuscript are highlighted. We also added the appropriate references to clarify evidence.

The revised manuscript was also thoroughly checked and edited by a professional native English-speaking medical editor with specialist knowledge in this field to meet the language standards required by leading English language publications. We have attached the Certificate of Editing for this purpose.

We hope that the revisions made have satisfactorily answered all the comments raised and that our paper is now suitable for publication in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Thank you for considering our revised paper for publication. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely
Chisato Hamashima, MD, DrMedSc
Cancer Screening Assessment and Management Division
Research Center for Cancer Prevention and Screening
National Cancer Center
5-1-1 Tsukiji Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0045, Japan
Phone: +81-3-3547-5305
Fax: +81-3-3547-8587
E-mail: chamashi@ncc.go.jp

PONIT-BY-POINT RESPONSES

We have carefully revised the manuscript in the accordance with all the comments and suggestions of the reviewers. We have also revised the manuscript format as a research report. The references and figure were also updated and a 'Comments' section were added. All changes made in the manuscript have been highlighted.

Reviewer 69471

Authors investigated the effectiveness of endoscopy screening for gastric cancer by calculating the mortality reduction from gastric cancer. Many endoscopists believe that endoscopy screening is the most excellent way, but there has been little data on the mortality reduction effect of endoscopy screening, so now in Japan radiographic screening is recommended in public. Therefore, this manuscript is very valuable.

Response

Thank you for your careful review and valuable comments. To be able to recommend endoscopic screening for gastric cancer in communities, evidence showing mortality reduction is necessary, and this should be accumulated step by step. We hope that our study will serve as a cornerstone of evaluation studies for gastric cancer screening. We appreciate your favorable appraisal of our manuscript and for recognizing the importance of this work.

Reviewer 724450

Hamashima et al presented an epidemiologic study title as "Impact of endoscopic screening on mortality reduction from gastric cancer ". I believed that this study well designed and powered for study population. The literature is not include enough epidemiologic studies especially in preventive oncology. Many authors know that endoscopic screening is gold standard for gastric cancer screening but this study also included the other screening methods.

Response

1) We appreciate your insightful and valuable comments. In the revised manuscript, we cited studies involving the evaluation of gastric cancer screening methods including radiography, endoscopy, and serological testing. A detailed explanation was added regarding the PDQ® for gastric cancer screening by the National Cancer Institute as follows (Page 6):

“Serologic testing, including serum pepsinogen and *H. pylori* antibody testing, has also been used for targeting the high-risk group for gastric cancer; however, the effectiveness of these screening methods has not been fully clarified^{[2,4].”}

2) Endoscopy has been commonly used for the clinical examination of gastric cancer. However, the target population is different between clinical practice and cancer screening. Since the target population of cancer screening is asymptomatic people, evaluation of mortality reduction from gastric cancer by endoscopic screening is required. Unfortunately, there have been few evaluation studies for endoscopic screening and their qualities have not been sufficient. In this study, we could accurately evaluate mortality reduction from gastric cancer by endoscopic screening compared with the reference population in Niigata City, Niigata prefecture, and Japan. Although this is a cohort study with a short follow-up period, we believe that this study could be a cornerstone of evaluation studies for gastric cancer screening by endoscopy.

Reviewer 724450

Manuscript has many English Grammar errors such as " detectearlygastric, photofluorographyand, screeningshaveperformed in clinical settings, individualswho visitedregularlyetc). If the author revised for the grammar, the manuscript may be accepted.

Response

The revised manuscript was comprehensively edited by a professional native-English speaking medical editor who has extensive years of medical editing experience and specialist knowledge in this field to meet the language standards required by leading English language publications. All revisions in the revised manuscript have been highlighted. We have also included the Certificate of Editing for this purpose.