

June 24, 2015



Title: Clinical characteristics of hepatoduodenal lymph node metastasis in gastric cancer

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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 17912

Dear Ya-Juan Ma
Science Editor Editorial office **“World Journal of Gastroenterology”**

Thank you for your kind letter concerning the manuscript entitled **“Clinical characteristics of hepatoduodenal lymph node metastasis in gastric cancer**

(ESPS Manuscript NO: 17912)” by Imamura, Komatsu et al. We have revised the manuscript according to editor's and reviewer's comments using a red color font (highlighted revise version) and presented the outlining responses to your comments below.

We thank you for the valuable suggestions and comments for the manuscript. We have carefully revised it accordingly. Explanations have been provided point by point. We believe that our revised manuscript has been improved by these revisions, and satisfy your concerns. We cordially appreciate your work regarding our manuscript. We hope that the revised manuscript is now acceptable for publication in the **“World Journal of Gastroenterology”**.

Sincerely yours,

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Thank you for your kind and promising letter concerning the manuscript. We have revised the manuscript according to editor's comments as follows. We believe that our revised manuscript have been improved by revisions, and satisfy your concerns. We cordially appreciate your work regarding our manuscript. We hope that the revised manuscript is now acceptable for publication in "**World Journal of Gastroenterology**".

Query 1

Please add Ethics approval, Informed consent, Conflict-of-interest, and Data sharing.

Reply 1

Thank you for your comments. As you indicated, we added Ethics approval, Informed consent, Conflict-of-interest, and Data sharing statement in the title page. In addition, we provided a copy of Ethics approval, Informed consent, Conflict-of-interest, and Data sharing statement in PDF format.

Query 2

Please read the core tip then provide the audio core tip.

Reply 2

Thank you for your comments. As you indicated, we added the audio core tip.

Query 3

Please write the COMMENTS section.

Reply 3

Thank you for your comment. We added the COMMENT section at the end of main article as follows.

COMMENTS

Background

It is still unclear whether HDLN metastasis is a poor prognostic indicator or a determining factor of local metastasis such that its removal by surgery provides survival benefit. Moreover, the indication of HDLN dissection is controversial between Eastern and Western countries.

Research frontiers

This study was designed to evaluate the clinical characteristics and impact of HDLN metastasis on the clinical course and to clarify the optimal indication of HDLN dissection.

Innovations and breakthroughs

HDLN metastasis was clearly identified as a poor prognostic indicator in patients with a tumour in the upper stomach or with pN3 gastric cancer, as well as a key factor controlling local recurrence in patients with pN1 and pN2 gastric cancer.

Applications

Our results indicate the significance in making a decision about HDLN dissection depending on the tumour location and pathological N-category. For patients with lesions considered as pN1 or pN2, D2 lymphadenectomy with HDLN dissection should be performed.

Terminology

Hepatoduodenal lymph node is defined as a hepatoduodenal ligament lymph node along the proper hepatic artery [8], and the Japanese treatment guidelines recommend it to be routinely removed as a standard procedure for D2 lymphadenectomy. On the other hand, the HDLN is not removed in Western countries, and HDLN metastasis is classified as distant metastasis according to the 7th American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) staging manual.

Peer-review

The study is of high level, the results shown in this work could be a contribution for that the medical teams take a good decision that can help a better survival of the patient. The results could be take in account in different hospitals in the world.

Query 4

Please offer the figures in ppt format.

Reply 4

We provided the figures in ppt format.

Reviewer code: 3002860

Date reviewed: 2015-04-13 10:26

Comments to Authors:

The study is of high level, the results shown in this work could be a contribution for that the medical teams take a good decision that can help a better survival of the patient. The results could be take in account in different hospitals in the world.

Classification: Grade B (Very good)

Language evaluation: Grade A: priority publishing

Conclusion: Accept

Response to reviewer's comments

Thank you for your kind comments. We cordially appreciate your contribution to the review of our manuscript and found them to be great helpful.

Reviewer code: 57951

Date reviewed: 2015-06-06 02:38

Comments to Authors:

Congratulations on your fine work.

Classification: Grade C (Good)

Language evaluation: Grade B: minor language polishing

Conclusion: Accept

Response to reviewer's comments

Thank you for your kind comments.

Reviewer code: 69023

Date reviewed: 2015-06-11 15:33

Comments to Authors:

Good job. This work will provide the importance of hepatoduodenal LN dissection for the patients with gastric cancer located at the middle to lower portion.

Classification: Grade B (Very good)

Language evaluation: Grade A: priority publishing

Conclusion: Accept

Response to reviewer's comments

Thank you for your kind comments.

Reviewer code: 58401

Date reviewed: 2015-06-15 20:31

Comments to Authors:

Congratulations for the quality of the work

Classification: Grade B (Very good)

Language evaluation: Grade B: minor language polishing

Conclusion: Accept

Response to reviewer's comments

Thank you for your kind comments.