

**Biostatistics statement:** All data were analyzed by using SAS software version 8.2 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC). Differences between the EUS methods in terms of malignant lymph node detection were assessed by using McNemar's test. A difference with  $P < .01$  was regarded as significant. Interobserver agreement in terms of the EUS variables described above was also assessed. A  $\kappa$  coefficient of  $>0.8$  was considered to indicate excellent agreement,  $>0.6$  was considered to indicate good agreement, and  $>0.4$  was considered to indicate moderate agreement. The statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Yastaka Chiba from Division of Biostatistics, Clinical Research Center, Kinki University Faculty of Medicine.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Masayuki Kikuchi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.