

Manuscript number: 24113

Title: **“Strategies of laparoscopic spleen-preserving splenic hilar lymph node dissection for advanced proximal gastric cancer”**

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Dear Editor:

We are grateful to the anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestions which help improve the quality of the paper. We have study the reviewers' comments carefully and have made modifications and corrections which we hope meet their approval. We have revised the manuscript according to your kind advices and referee's detailed suggestions. Here below is our description on revision.

Authors present a review concerning technical aspects of laparoscopic splenic hilar lymph node dissection for advanced gastric cancer. Although it is a nice review manuscript, to date the prognostic benefit for advanced gastric cancer is under debate. Therefore the authors should consider to discuss the potential benefit vs. a possible increase in morbidity.

The authors' Answer: Yes, we add the sentence that “Although to date the prognostic benefit of laparoscopic splenic hilar lymph node dissection for advanced gastric cancer is under debate, a randomized controlled trials on laparoscopic spleen-preserving No. 10 lymph node dissection for advanced middle or upper third gastric cancer(NCT02333721) is ongoing in our center.We think it could demonstrate that this procedure has potential benefit for those patients without increase in morbidity in experienced center”.

We have checked the manuscript and revised it according to the comments. We submit here the revised manuscript as well as a list of changes.

If you have any question about this paper, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Chang-Ming Huang