

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



May 24, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 3035-review.doc).

Title: A feasible modified biopsy method for tissue diagnosis of gastric subepithelial tumors

Author: Jung Ho Kim, Jun-Won Chung, Minsu Ha, Min Young Rim, Jong Joon Lee, 1Jungsuk An, Yoon Jae Kim, Kyoung Oh Kim, Kwang An Kwon, Dong Kyun Park, Yeon Suk Kim, Duck Joo Choi

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 3035

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1)EDITOR'S SUGGESTIONS

1) English language editing service

→ An English language editing service reviewed the revised manuscript.

→ We attached the file for the English language certificate..

2) The revisions

→ We have modified the manuscript based on the review and added the requested data and discussion. This is denoted by sky blue-highlighted text.

3) References

→ Three references were added. (23 -> 26 references)

(2)REVIEWER 1

Comments: A modified biopsy method is feasible for the tissue diagnosis of gastric subepithelial tumors Discuss an important modified technique to obtain biopsies from gastric subepithelial tumours. Article well written and findings are of practical importance.

→ Thank you for taking the time to review my manuscript.

Minor comments. Article has few grammatical errors which need to be corrected. Abstracts- results - "Mean size was 21.8mm...." Mean size of what?

→ An English language editing service reviewed the revised manuscript.

(3)REVIEWER 2

Please make a comment regarding the technical difficulty of your method and learning curve

→ Thank you very much for your comments. The MIF biopsy is a very simple technique, and this study represents the preliminary data from a small patient cohort. It is therefore difficult to show data on the learning curve. The technical difficulty may differ with the type of SETs, which was explained in the Discussion.

Please provide a video demonstrating this method

→ We have attached the video file.

(4) REVIEWER 3

This paper reports the usefulness of a mucosal incision with a fixed flexible snare (MIF) and a deep-tissue biopsy for the histological diagnosis of gastric subepithelial tumors. This study is well-designed, but in terms of novelty, this study lacks in new findings.

Major comment

1) Similar methods are previously reported. Recently, the paper titled “Mucosal-incision assisted biopsy for suspected gastric gastrointestinal stromal tumors” was published in World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. It may be necessary to show the difference of this study from the previous reports.

→ The article published in the recent issue of the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, which was mentioned by the reviewer, concerns a method that differs greatly from the MIF biopsy. Their described method uses an ESD technique. It is a mucosal incision-assisted biopsy (MIAB) that allows a mucosal incision at the circumferential margin of a lesion using an ESD-associated technique, followed by submucosal dissection to expose the SETs and then biopsy. This method differs from the MIF biopsy, which involves an incision of the mucosa covering the convex zone. MIAB appears to be much more complex and difficult compared to the MIF biopsy. We have modified the manuscript accordingly and have added the requested data (Discussion section).

2) Eleven patients were included in this study, and the diagnostic yield of MIF biopsies was 90.9%. Thus, 95% confidence interval of the diagnostic yield would be approximately 60% to 100%. By the same token, although all the complications were successfully managed, 95% confidence interval of the complications would be 0% to 27%. More patients are needed to show the safety and efficacy of this procedure.

→ As described in the Discussion, we recognize the limitations of this study. The sample size of this study was small. However, there was no consensus on the standard biopsy method. Being a modified technique, the MIF biopsy appears meaningful in that it represents a possible alternative biopsy method. It is now possible to randomize patients in a prospective study design considering our data, and I hope that we will obtain a clearer result.

3) Minor comment 1) Although gastric leiomyoma is relatively rare, the number of gastric leiomyomas diagnosed in the study was higher than the number of GISTs. Details of the pathological examination should be written.

→ The number of leiomyomas may have been relatively greater than that of GISTs because this study was performed in small SETs. The small sample size precludes a discussion on the prevalence of the subtypes of SETs. We have added a description on the pathologic examination in the Methods.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Jun-Won Chung, MD, PhD,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. W. Chung', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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