



UNIVERSITY OF BRESCIA
DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES

Brescia, October 12th 2017

Professor Yuan Qi, Vice Director
Editorial Office
World Journal of Gastroenterology

Re: Manuscript No. 33598

Title: Recurrence in Node-Negative Advanced Gastric Cancer: Novel Findings from an In-Depth Pathological Analysis of Prognostic Factors from a Multicentric Series

Dear Professor Qi,

We truly apologize for the delay in sending the revised draft of our article and all the required statements. We spent a significant amount of time and effort in reviewing our article so that it can meet the high standards of scientific and editorial quality of the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Enclosed with this letter, you can find the most updated version of the paper, which addresses the reviewers' helpful comments and all the editorial and stylistic requirements of the journal.

Moreover, we have also added:

1. the PDF with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) statement
2. the PDF with the Informed Consent statement
3. the Biostatistics statement
4. the Conflict-of-interest statement
5. the Data Sharing statement
6. the Copyright form with each Author's signature scanned
7. the "Scientific Research Process" filled
8. the file with the Audio Core Tip

Here we provide our replies to the reviewers' queries and comments. We are very grateful to both reviewers for their helpful and excellent feedback.

Reviewer 1

We thank you a lot for your insightful suggestions. We underline that lymphatic embolization and microvascular infiltration have the same meaning of lymphatic invasion and venous invasion in microscopic context. A further study in which we classify the grade of lymphatic invasion and venous invasion, respectively, could be useful to better identify prognostic factors for recurrence. It seems that the in-depth pathological examinations are needed to all patients to manage a tailored post-operative therapy and follow up. So, we certainly agree with your idea of extra pathological examination. However, adding a subgroup of patients would change the focus of this article. We will absolutely consider your suggestion in our next

study. To address your suggestion in the current article, we added a paragraph in the “Discussion” session (page 10 in the middle).

Reviewer 2

We are very grateful for your positive evaluation of our work.

Many thanks for the excellent feedback we got on our work. We look forward to hearing whether the article and all the attached files meet the requirements of the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

With my best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Baiocchi', is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Professor Gian Luca Baiocchi

On behalf of all the authors

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