

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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Title: Metastatic pattern in esophageal and gastric cancer: Influenced by site and histology

Reviewer's code: 00204529

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: Netherlands

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Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

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Scientific quality	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Grade A: Excellent [<input type="radio"/>] Grade B: Very good [<input type="radio"/>] Grade C: Good [<input type="radio"/>] Grade D: Fair [<input type="radio"/>] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Grade A: Priority publishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade B: Minor language polishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [<input type="radio"/>] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Accept (High priority) [<input type="radio"/>] Accept (General priority) [<input type="radio"/>] Minor revision [<input type="radio"/>] Major revision [<input type="radio"/>] Rejection
Re-review	[<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No



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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have written a contemporary autopsy series of patients diagnosed with squamous cell or adenocarcinoma of the stomach or esophagus. This is a valuable contribution to the literature and is supportive of prior similar reports. The observation of some divergent and similar patterns of metastatic spread is informative. The authors comment on common presence of peritoneal disease in esophageal adenocarcinoma and they comment about the role of staging laparoscopy in early stage disease patients. Prospective studies have addressed this issue need to be cited by the authors, and one series from the U.S. indicated a relatively low rate of positive findings for routine laparoscopic staging in esophageal adenocarcinoma patients, questioning the role of this procedure routinely in these patients. Specific comments are outline below:

Abstract: The authors should indicate that only patients with a diagnosis of metastatic disease were included in this series. This report then reflects only patients with metastatic disease from the outset and does not evaluate patients with locoregional disease who underwent local therapies.