

Dear reviewer,

Re: manuscript ID: 59365 and title: Comparison of hand-assisted laparoscopic radical gastrectomy and laparoscopic-assisted radical gastrectomy: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Thank you for your comments concerning our manuscript. Those comments are valuable and very helpful.

**Q1.** These comparisons had been already discussed by a lot of surgeons, and currently, fully-laparoscopic radical gastrectomy is recommended by skillful surgeons. This point should be discussed.

Response: we agree with the comment and this point has been discussed in revised manuscript. In addition, fully-laparoscopic radical gastrectomy is recommended by skillful surgeons, but some surgeons cannot dominate this technique in undeveloped area. Hand-assisted laparoscopic gastrectomy is simpler for young surgeon. Meta-analysis of hand-assisted laparoscopic gastrectomy has not previously been published, so we do it.

**Q2.** Fully- or partially- laparoscopic radical gastrectomy will be decreased, because robot-assisted radical gastrectomy spread enough. This point should be discussed in a short paragraph as a perspective.

Response: we are grateful for the suggestion. We have added a short paragraph at the end.

**Q3.** Important articles are not listed. Why?

Response: thank you for underlining this deficiency. We have added some references for manuscript revision. However, the topic about Hand-assisted laparoscopic gastrectomy is mainly from our hospital. We avoid self-citations, so some articles are not listed.

Thank you for allowing us to resubmit a revised copy of the manuscript.

Sincerely,

Yong-Kuan Cao