

December 2, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word document format.  
(file name: 6194-Review.docx)



**Title:** The current role of minimally invasive approaches in the treatment of early gastric cancer.

**Author:** Abraham El-Sedfy, Savtaj Brar, Natalie G. Coburn

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 6194

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

- 1) Format and language has been updated. (All changes in blue font)
- 2) Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers

(1) **Reviewer #1-Reviewed by 02456472**

The authors choose an important and novel topic in clinics. Minimally invasive approaches in the treatment of early gastric cancer are hot topics in the field. The review is rich in content. However, some latest studies are missed by the authors in this field. For example, long-term outcomes between LG and open gastric resection have been discussed by a systematic review (Chen K, Systematic review and meta-analysis of laparoscopic and open gastrectomy for advanced gastric cancer. *World J Surg Oncol.* 2013 Aug 8;11:182. doi: 10.1186/1477-7819-11-182). In addition, some of the references are too old.

*We appreciate the reviewer's comments and have revised the manuscript accordingly. We have updated the references and added the latest systematic review to the laparoscopic section as recommended.*

(2) **Reviewer #2-Reviewed by 00739133**

The laparoscopic gastrectomy techniques should be analyzed extensively because the actual hospital length stay and complication rates are increased.

*We appreciate the reviewer's comments regarding short term outcomes of laparoscopic gastrectomy. We have added results from a systematic review by Chen et al. on laparoscopic and open gastrectomy for the treatment of advanced gastric cancer in the manuscript. Data reveals a lower complication rate (i.e. reduction in wound infection, reduction in respiratory complications, and quicker return of bowel function) in the laparoscopic group versus the open group and also shorter length of hospitalization. We do recognize that these results stem from high-volume specialized centers.*

3 References and typesetting were corrected to include PMID and DOI for the electronic version of the manuscript.

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

Sincerely yours,

Natalie Coburn, MD, MPH, FRCSC, FACS  
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Suite T2-60  
2075 Bayview Ave.,  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4N 3M5