

Informed consent statement: Patients were not required to give informed consent to the study because the analysis used anonymous clinical data that were obtained after each patient agreed to treatment by written consent.

Thanks very much.

Yours sincerely,

Li-Dong Wang, MD, PhD, Professor, State Key Laboratory of Esophageal Cancer Prevention & Treatment

and Henan Key Laboratory for Esophageal Cancer Research of The First Affiliated Hospital, Zhengzhou University,  
Zhengzhou 450052, Henan Province, China.