

Cover letter

July 1, 2021

Drs. Monjur Ahmed, Florin Burada and Rosa M Jimenez Rodriguez,
Editor-in-Chief
World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

Dear Drs. Ahmed, Burada and Rodriguez,

Thank you very much for your letter and the reviewer' constructive comments. We recognized that you and the reviewers kindly spent a lot of time and provided expert comments.

In response to the comments, 1) we applied the Delong method as the reviewer recommended, to newly calculated AUC values and the differences of AUC values (when < 0.7), 2) we sent our manuscript to the international science editing for editing the language again, 3) and we also modified the manuscript to address the other comments. The details of modifications are described in the attached rebuttal letter.

This manuscript has not been published, and is not under consideration elsewhere.

All the authors have contributed significantly and are in agreement with the content of the manuscript, and have approved it for submission. There are no potential competing interests.

We hope that the revised manuscript now is suitable for publication in *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*. Thank you very much for your kind attention to our manuscript, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

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Editor and Reviewers' Comments in Bold Letters

Authors' replies in blue letters

Editor:

We are pleased to inform you that, after preview by the Editorial Office and peer review, as well as Cross Check and Google plagiarism detection, we believe that the academic quality, language quality, and ethics of your manuscript (Manuscript NO.: 67028, Retrospective Study) basically meet the publishing requirements of the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology. As such, we have made the preliminary decision that it is acceptable for publication after your appropriate revision. Upon our receipt of your revised manuscript, we will send it for re-review. We will then make a final decision on whether to accept the manuscript or not, based on the reviewers' comments, the quality of the revised manuscript, and the relevant documents. Please follow the steps outlined below to revise your manuscript to meet the requirements for final acceptance and publication.

Thank you very much for your kind interest in our manuscript.

Reviewer:

1. This manuscript was well-written about the prognosis values of modified Lauren classification in gastric cancer, compared to differentiation grade and Lauren classification. The authors proposed a novel prognostic model for predicting the overall survival in patients who underwent the gastric cancer surgery. Statistical analyses were appropriately performed for comparison of AUCs between the models.

Thank you very much for your positive comments.

2. Hanley and McNeil test is considered when the values of AUC are > 0.7 and it does not give the covariance between the two AUCs. In the present study, AUCs of three pathological classification (Table 3) were less than 0.7, except for 5-year overall survival of modified Lauren classification. Instead, Delong method or Li's method may provide more exact estimation of the difference between two AUCs (references: Biometrics 1988;44:837-45 and Stat Med 2008;27:224-42). Please consider the statistical consultation again.

Thank you for pointing out this important issue. According to this comment, we applied the Delong method as the reviewer recommended, to newly calculated AUC values and the differences of AUC values (Table 3; Table 4; page 7, line. 178; page 8, line. 213; page 9, lines. 215-216, 220; and page 10, line. 251).