

Dear Editors,

We have revised the manuscript entitled "Maturation of robotic liver resection during the last decade: a systematic review and meta-analysis." for consideration for publication in the World Journal of Meta-analysis. Because it was a minor revision, we revise it minimal.

Comment #1 suggests conducting the meta-regression for identifying heterogeneity of the outcome. Heterogeneity was an important issue when the outcome showed significant differences among the comparisons. However, operation time using laparoscopic liver resection in the early period is the only result that showed statistical significance. We disagree with the comment, which gave no further benefit in this study. Therefore, we did not consider further analysis.

Comment #2 suggests conducting the Begg's and Egger's tests to identify publication bias. We added the additional table (supplemental Table 3) and reanalyzed all supplemental figs to improve it. However, we do not understand the benefit of this intention due to a lack of statistical significance.

I do not understand the similarity index. The method of the meta-analysis should be the same or similar. The Crosscheck pointed to the only method section. We revised it as much as possible, but there is a limitation to revise it.

All of the listed authors have participated in this study and approved the enclosed manuscript. I attest that neither the submitted material nor portions thereof have been published or are under consideration for publication elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

Toru Mizuguchi, M.D., Ph.D.

Department of Nursing, Surgical Sciences
Sapporo Medical University School of Public Health,
S-1, W-17, Chuo-Ku,
Sapporo, Hokkaido 060-8556, Japan
Tel: +81-11-611-2111 (ext. 29460)
Fax: +81-11-612-5525

