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Dear, Prof Ma

My colleagues and I would like to submit our original manuscript entitled "Usefulness of the clip-flap method of endoscopic submucosal dissection for early-stage gastric cancer: a prospective randomized trial" (Ms. number: 40414) for publication in the section of 'original articles' of your Journal. We wish to thank you and the reviewer for his/her helpful comments. We have attempted to address reviewer's comments and made the appropriate changes according to those comments.

We believe that this manuscript will be of a great interest to the readers of your Journal. All authors have read the manuscript and conflict of interest statement and approved their submission for publication.

We thank you for your consideration and prompt handling of our manuscript and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

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Our responses to comments raised by the Reviewer 1 (Number ID: 03316969)

1. Dear authors and editor, Hiromitsu Ban et al have well designed and described a result of randomized controlled trial titled "Usefulness of the clip-flap method of endoscopic submucosal dissection for early-stage gastric cancer: a prospective randomized trial". This is a well written manuscript about the efficacy and safety of the clip-flap assisted ESD for patients with early-stage gastric tumors. However, in the results and conclusions shows us that it does not improve rate of en bloc resection, procedure time and safety in patients with gastric tumors. The paper is well-organised, the language is correct and the content is understandable. Literature properly selected and up to date. I believe they add some contribution to the literature. I support publication of the presented article in the WJG. Thank you for your choice me as a reviewer.

**Response:**

Thank you for your comments. We believe that this manuscript will be of a great interest to the readers of the WJG.

Our responses to comments raised by the Reviewer 2 (Number ID: 00070109)

**Major comments**

1. The current study was well designed by a randomized controlled trial to clarify the efficacy and safety of the clip-flap assisted ESD for patients with early-stage gastric tumors, and the conclusions were achieved that it does not improve rate of en bloc resection, procedure time of ESD and safety (bleeding and perforation) in patients with gastric tumors. Because the study is single-center study and non double-blinded study, the power of conclusions are still insufficient.

**Response:**

Thank you for your comments. As your comments, because this study is single-center study and non double-blinded study, we think that it will be required to plan further study that investigate efficacy of the clip-flap assisted ESD by multi-center study enrolled many patients. Therefore, we add this comment as limitation in revised version.

Our responses to comments raised by the Reviewer 3 (Number ID: 03017551)

**Major comments**

1. First, the efficacy and safety of the clip-flap assisted endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) was studied. Second, the study is very interesting. The clip-flap method has been proven to be advantageous for patients with early-stage colorectal tumors. Third, this publication is a practical clinical significance.

**Response:**

Thank you for your comments. We believe that this study is a practical clinical significance to perform ESD for early-stage gastric tumor and that this manuscript will be of a great interest to the readers of the WJG.