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date 30 December 2015

to *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Prof. Dr. D. Garcia-Olmo

Prof. Dr. S.C. Strom

Prof. Dr. A.S. Tarnawski

Dear Professor Garcia-Olmo, Professor Strom and Professor Tarnawski,
Dear Yuan Qi,

Thank you for the careful and thoughtful review of our manuscript entitled: "Near-infrared fluorescence sentinel lymph node detection in gastric cancer: a pilot study" by Tummers and Boogerd et al.

We are pleased to provide the following point-by-point revision in response to the comments of the reviewers. All changes are shown highlighted in the revised manuscript.

Reviewer #1

This is an interesting study investigating the feasibility and accuracy of NIR fluorescence imaging using ICG:Nanocoll for sentinel lymph node detection in gastric cancer. This manuscript is well written. Comments are listed as follows:

1. In Section of Abstract, the full name for SLN (appeared for first time) should be provided.

We have incorporated sentinel lymph node (SLN) in the abstract section

2. In Page 8 Line 5, "1.6ml ICG:Nanocoll containing 0.05mg ICG...". Are the authors sure the dose for ICG is correct? Why is not 5mg?

0.05 mg ICG is the correct injected dose, and in accordance with the range of dosage used for lymphatic imaging in the literature. Higher doses (5mg or higher) are used for systemic, intravenous administration of ICG.

3. The authors used the lymph node stations defined by the Japanese Research Society for the Study of Gastric Cancer. In table 2, could they provide station number for St. lig. HD and pancreatic border? It is also suggested that "St." be put into the bar "Location of detected SLNs".

We have changed the manuscript and table in accordance to the reviewer suggestion:

Page 12: (LN station 12)

Page 12: (LN station 14)

Page 27, table 2: Location of detected SLNs by LN St

Reviewer #2

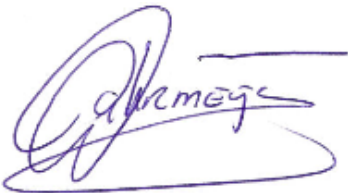
Comment to authors, In this manuscript, the author investigated the usefulness of the indocyanine green adsorbed to nano colloid in gastric cancer patients. The manuscript has a potential. My only concern is the title. Title should include "a pilot study".

We have changed the title of the manuscript in accordance to the reviewer suggestion:

Page 1: Near-infrared fluorescence sentinel lymph node detection in gastric cancer: a pilot study

We thank the reviewers for their suggestions, which have strengthened the manuscript considerably. A revised manuscript has been uploaded to the Express Submission and Peer-review System. We thank you for the opportunity to submit a revised manuscript.

Sincerely,



Alexander L. Vahrmeijer, M.D., Ph.D.