

## RESPONSE LETTER TO REVIEWERS

Dear Reviewers

I am resubmitting both

-your original edited paper with highlighted revisions I made following all your suggestions (see attached file ***1a\_DEGIULI\_21351\_revised manuscript***)

-and the new paper with the language revision made by the America Journal Experts whose certificate has been send in this resubmission (see attached file

***1b\_DEGIULI\_21351\_revised manuscript*** )

Following the suggestion of Mr Ze-Mao Gong, Science Editor, Editorial Office, I ask your help to do the checking with cross-check, as I think it will take too much time for me.

Answers to reviewers

Major points

- 1) The authors explained the Japanese classification of gastric carcinoma precisely according to 2nd English edition published in 1998. It is expired since 3rd English edition published in 2011. Third English edition includes great revision especially in the classification of lymph node metastasis. Lymph node stage is no longer differ from TNM staging, so the authors should rewrite the following parts:
  1. Page 6, line 4-13: **has been completely modified referring to 3<sup>rd</sup> english edition**
  2. Table 2: **table 2 has been modified and now it shows the anatomical definitions of lymph node stations**
  3. Table 3: has been delated
- 2) The authors also described the “definitions of different levels of lymph node dissection (page 10)” along to the old English version of Japanese gastric

cancer treatment guidelines published in 2004. Modified surgery is now classified to “D1+ ”, and is not already classified as “D1+alfa” or “D1+beta” . So this part also should be rewrite correctly along to the 3rd English edition of Japanese gastric cancer treatment guidelines published in 2010: [the chapter “definitions of different levels of lymph node dissection”](#) has been completely rewritten referring to the 3<sup>rd</sup> English edition.

#### Minor points

- 3) One hundred and forty papers were cited in the manuscript, however the reference lists showed 118 references only. The author should provide correct reference lists: [a correct reference list has been provided.](#)
- 4) Page 9, line 10; from“ jejunal veins” to “middle colic vein” #3. Page 9, line 23; from“thid tier” to “ third tier” #4. Page 9, line26; from”theleft” to “ the left” #5. Page 22, line28; from “RTCs” to “RCTs” #6. Page 26, line25; from “Nr” to “No.” #7. Page 26, line27; from “nr” to “No.” : [all these changes have been made properly.](#)