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ESPS Peer-review Report

Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Ms: 2983

Title: Systematic review and meta-analysis of laparoscopy-assisted and open total gastrectomy for gastric cancer

Reviewer code: 01446165

Science editor: l.l.wen@wjgnet.com

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	RECOMMENDATION	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A (Excellent)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority Publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B (Very good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C (Good)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: a great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> No records	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D (Fair)		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E (Poor)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Existed	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> No records	

COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS:

A well written paper which will add a great deal to the literature on the subject. I think one of the most significant conclusions from this work is the lack of RCTs surrounding the field. This meta-analysis is predominantly case-comparison trials (mainly retrospective) and as such incorporates both the selection bias of the included trials and the heterogeneity of the data associated with these sorts of trials even with the best statistical methods of weighing the data it still exposes the biases of the included trials. Could the authors highlight this clearer within the manuscript, perhaps in figure 1 they could consider adding a column highlighting the level of clinical evidence (Oxford, uk) as is assigned to each of the papers included. Minor typographical errors noted but only a few. Overall a good paper.