

Oct 27, 2022

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 80562_Auto_Edited.docx).

Title: Clinical value of regional lymph node sorting in gastric cancer: A retrospective study

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Name of Journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

ESPS Manuscript NO: 80562

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers
(# = our response)

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer.

Reviewer#1

This is an instructive paper indicates that regional sorting of lymph nodes after radical gastrectomy can increase the number of detected lymph nodes. I think it is worthy of publication.

#Thanks for your comments.

Reviewer #2:

- Abstract, Background: please avoid using casual wordings "relationship" in observational studies. The authors may consider using "association".

Revised

- Abstract / Core tip / Conclusion: The authors may wish to use "may / might" instead of "can" in results derived from observational studies.

Revised

- Methods: To increase the readability, please add brief descriptions on what variables were considered in the multivariate logistic regression.

More information is provided.

- Discussion: References are needed. "Anatomical-based gastric cancer lymph node staging cannot ensure objectivity in clinical practice. " and "... a pathologist who may not be familiar with gastric circumferential anatomy can easily identify the lymph nodes, rather than striving to identify "at least 16" lymph nodes. "

We have added.

- Discussion: Could you clarify... by "...the No. 3 group near the small curved side..." and "location near the small curved side " do you mean "the lesser curvature"?

Yes, we have revised.

- Discussion: "we found that the most vulnerable region was group No. 3...." and "... main direction of lymphatic reflux are more vulnerable.". What do you mean by "vulnerable"? Please clarify.

We mean the metastasized and have revised.

- Discussion: "... further experimental researches are needed to indicated the biological mechanisms in GC of the four prognostic genes.". Why were "four prognostic genes" suddenly mentioned in the Limitation section? It sounds like a new statement instead of a limitation of this study. If it's irrelevant, please drop it.

We have dropped it.

- Discussion: Also, please elaborate a bit more on limitations, e.g. possible bias or potential reverse causality due to the nature of the study design or methods on data gathering.

We have added.

- Discussion: should be “research” or “studies” not "researches". “to indicate” not “to indicated”

Revised

- Conclusion: The sentence “the current lymph node staging and lymph node metastasis systems have a certain degree of consistency” is irrelevant as this conclusion was not evaluated in the present study. The authors may consider removing the sentence.

The sentence has been deleted.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology.

Sincerely yours,

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