

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

Manuscript NO: 68570

Title: Is surgery the best treatment for elderly gastric cancer patients?

Reviewer's code: 05824934

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Singapore

Author's Country/Territory: Japan

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Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-07-03 22:31

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Due to peculiar problems such as preoperative malnutrition, dementia, postoperative pneumonia, and delirium, surgical operation in treating gastric cancer (GC) in elderly is always risky. In their manuscript “Is Surgery the Best Treatment for Elderly Gastric Cancer Patients?”, the authors discussed surgical indications compared with best supportive care (BSC), laparoscopic surgery, total gastrectomy, and the extent of lymph node dissection. The authors concluded that the minimal invasive laparoscopic surgery is as useful as or better than open surgery. The topic addressed in this manuscript is interesting and of great practical importance, and should be published after minor revision. In the discussion, the authors list *Helicobacter pylori* infection as the most important cause of GC. Yet, the role of *Helicobacter pylori* infection in the pathogenesis of gastric cancer (GC) is not fully established. Given the low virulence of *Helicobacter pylori* and its high infection prevalence worldwide, recent research shows that it might be more like a commensal organism and an opportunistic pathogen than a confirmed pathogen. Gut microbial dysbiosis (the over-growth of certain microorganisms like *Helicobacter pylori*) and chronic inflammation might have a greater role in the initiation and progress of GC than the presence of *Helicobacter pylori*. The following references may help to understand the role of *Helicobacter pylori* in gastric diseases. References: 1. Reshetnyak, VI; Burmistrov, AI; Maev, IV (2021) *Helicobacter pylori*: Commensal, symbiont or pathogen? *World J Gastroenterol.* 27(7):545-560. DOI: 10.3748/wjg.v27.i7.545 2. Li, J; Perez-Perez, GI (2018) *Helicobacter pylori* the Latent Human Pathogen or an Ancestral Commensal Organism. *Front Microbiol.* 9:609. DOI: 10.3389/fmicb.2018.00609