



Biostatistics Statement:

Manuscript Title: Cryopreservation for delayed circulating tumor cell isolation is a valid strategy for prognostic association of CTCs in gastroesophageal cancer

Manuscript NO: 37031

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Biostatistics Statement:

The CTC recovery from matched cryopreserved and fresh samples were compared with the paired t-test. Correlation between cryopreservation time and CTC number was described with a Pearson correlation coefficient, and the Fisher exact test and t-test were used to compare the status of CTCs with categorical clinicopathologic factors.

For survival analyses, in the absence of established cut-offs for prognostic CTC numbers, the median CTC count (17) was used as the discriminator between high and low CTC counts. Survival analyses are conducted using Kaplan-Meier methods, with median survival reported. Unadjusted and multivariable Cox proportional hazards regression analyses were used to estimate the association between CTC counts and survival, and to calculate corresponding hazard ratios (HRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CIs). The following variables were included in the multivariate model: age, sex, ECOG, TNM stage, primary tumor location, and CTC count. All statistical analyses were performed using SAS 9.2 software (SAS Institute, Inc., Cary, NC).

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