

Biostatistics statement

In this manuscript, statistical analysis was performed with SPSS version 17.0. Data were compared using paired t-test. Mann-Whitney *U* test was used for comparing continuous data with skewed distribution in the two groups. A Chi-square test with Yate's correction was used to analyze gender.

Here I confirm that the statistical analyses of this study are performed in an appropriate manner. If you have any question concerning the statistical analyses, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jin Kan Sai". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jin Kan Sai, MD,

Associate Professor

Department of Gastroenterology,

Juntendo University

2-1-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8421, Japan.

Telephone: +81-3-5802-1061; **Fax:** +81-3-5684-5960

E-mail: jinkans@juntendo.ac.jp