

## 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 black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

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