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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37142

Title: Neoadjuvant chemotherapy for gastric cancer: a must or a fake?

Reviewer's code: 00502831

Reviewer's country: Japan

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2017-11-19

Date reviewed: 2017-11-22

Review time: 2 Days

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors performed a complete review of the literature searching all randomized trials that compared NAC followed by surgery (NAC+S) with surgery alone (SA) to investigate the chemotherapy effects on the survival of patients with proper stomach cancer submitted to complete extended surgery with D2 nodal dissection. And the authors pointed out several problems of past RCTs. This article was interesting and well written. I have one comment. #. The results was too long and boring. So the authors should summarized important point of past RCTs and described in detail about only important large RCTs.



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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37142

Title: Neoadjuvant chemotherapy for gastric cancer: a must or a fake?

Reviewer's code: 01558002

Reviewer's country: Greece

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2017-11-19

Date reviewed: 2017-11-24

Review time: 4 Days

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The study has several major flaws. First, this study is a narrative review, which should be educational, but the study does not summarize the international guidelines and does not discuss the indication, benefit and harm of neoadjuvant chemotherapy. Second, abstracts with insufficient data and some clinical trials are unsuitable for the analysis with the primary outcome of overall survival. For instance, the primary outcome of a study by Zhao (Ref 34) was the effect of neoadjuvant chemotherapy on apoptosis and its mechanism in gastric cancer but not on survival. Third, the authors argue that the efficacy of neoadjuvant chemotherapy should be evaluated on the assumption that D2 lymphadenectomy is the primary surgical factor affecting patient outcomes, but complete D2 for advanced proximal gastric cancer requires splenectomy with or without distal pancreatectomy, which would not benefit the patient in the absence of direct invasion to the spleen.



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37142

Title: Neoadjuvant chemotherapy for gastric cancer: a must or a fake?

Reviewer's code: 03002224

Reviewer's country: Japan

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2017-11-19

Date reviewed: 2017-11-26

Review time: 6 Days

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript reviews the effects of neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NAC) for advanced gastric cancer (GC) patients after surgery compared with surgery alone. NAC may be effective for selective patients with tumor or surgery related criteria, but still remain controversial for the treatment of GC. The authors informed that NAC for GC has been rapidly introduced in international western guidelines without evidence based medicine of its efficacy for proper GC in patients treated with D2 lymph node dissection. Although the study was well reviewed, there are a few points as described below to be clarified. Major revision 1. In this manuscript, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) were fully selected for reviews of NAC for GC. This selection seems to be conducted for meta-analyses of RCTs at a glance, while the comments for these RCTs are mainly documented. Although "NAC for GC: a must or a fake?" in title, its answer? 2. The effects of NAC for GC are various by western or eastern countries, regimens and surgical



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procedures. So, it is desirable to review a condition of having the expected effects or not of NAC for GC. Minor revision 1. IGCSG, MRC, NEJM, EGJ etc→The order of these abbreviations is various.



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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37142

Title: Neoadjuvant chemotherapy for gastric cancer: a must or a fake?

Reviewer's code: 03017516

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Ze-Mao Gong

Date sent for review: 2017-11-19

Date reviewed: 2017-11-27

Review time: 8 Days

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
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		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The article is a very well conducted systematic review on the role of neoadjuvant therapy for gastric cancer, by a referral and very experienced Italian group. The topic, the results and the argumentation are really interesting. The review is extensive and the discussion is well detailed. I only have a few minor suggestions to improve the quality of the manuscript: 1. English language editing 2. Methods : please add quality assessment of the included studies (you may use the Delphi criteria)The article is a very well conducted systematic review on the role of neoadjuvant therapy for gastric cancer, by a referral and very experienced Italian group. The topic, the results and the argumentation are really interesting. The review is extensive and the discussion is well detailed. I only have a few minor suggestions to improve the quality of the manuscript: 1. English language editing 2. Methods : please add quality assessment of the included studies (you may use the Delphi criteria) 3. Methods: following PRISMA guidelines may



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add relevance to the systematic review
add relevance to the systematic review

3. Methods: following PRISMA guidelines may