

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



July 28, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 3745-review.doc).

Title: Characteristics and prognosis of gastric cancer in patients aged 70 and older

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The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) Reference for FOLFOX6 regimen in gastric cancer has been cited. Figures have been revised according to the editor's views.

(2) Why did the authors treat 70 and older patients as elderly people?

Data from the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBSC) shows the average life span of the Chinese was 72.38 years for men and 77.37 years for women in 2010 respectively, and patients aged 65 and older accounts for 8.87% of total population. Elderly people are sometimes divided up into young old (65-74), the old old (75-84), and the oldest old (85+). Usually people aged 65 and older were considered as elderly. Although in Japan many of gastric cancer patients are 70 and older, Japanese have the longest life span in the world. According to a report released by the world health organization, the average life span of Japanese was 83 years in 2011. Taking into consideration the majority of elderly patients with gastric cancer are male, we use 70 as a threshold, which is quite close to the average life span of Chinese men. Also according to our data, there were no significant differences in survival between patients aged 75 and older and these aged 70-75.

(3) The contents of distant metastasis have been analyzed.

(4) Is it possible to analyze both PFS and MST?

We have analyzed the median survival time (MST). However, PFS is not available in our database.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Han Liang

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