

Reviewer 1:

This is a very interesting manuscript about the minimally invasive esophagectomy compared with open surgery for esophageal squamous cell carcinoma. In this manuscript, the lymph node dissection result of minimally invasive esophagectomy and open surgery for esophageal squamous cell carcinoma were compared. Data from patients who underwent MIE or open surgery for esophageal squamous cell carcinoma were re-reviewed. The author found that the LNS rate at left para-recurrent laryngeal nerve site was significantly higher for open surgery than for MIE, but no differences at other sites. The LNM rate at left para-RLN site in open surgery group was significantly higher than that in MIE group, regardless of pathologic T stage. Overall, the study is well designed and the manuscript is well written. Some minor revisions needed. 1 The results are interesting, but if the authors can add some figures, it will be more interesting. 2 There are some minor language polishing should be corrected. 3 References should be updated. More recent references should be added and discussed.

Response: Thanks so much for the good suggestion. We have revised the language and updated the reference.

Reviewer 2:

This is a very interesting manuscript. After some minor revision of the language, this manuscript can be accepted.

Response: Thanks so much for the good suggestion. We have revised the language.