

March 17, 2016

Editor-in-Chief, World Journal of Gastroenterology

Dear Dr. Lian-Sheng Ma

Thank you very much for your helpful comments on our manuscript (World Journal of Gastroenterology, Manuscript NO: 24852) entitled “Long-term outcomes and prognostic factors of patients with obstructive colorectal cancer : A multicenter retrospective cohort study.”.

I have corrected the manuscript accordingly to the reviewers' recommendations, as follows:

Reviewer's Comments

Coment 1.

Prognostic nutritional index (PNI) was indicated as a clinicopathological factor in Table 1. However, PNI was not assessed in univariate and multivariate analyses (Table 3 and 4). Why did the authors include PNI as a factor in univariate and multivariate analyses?

Author's response

Thank you very much for your suggestion. The PNI was calculated by $10 \times \text{Alb.} + 0.005 \times \text{Lymph. C.}$, where Alb. is serum albumin level (g/dl) and Lymph. C. is total lymphocytes count/mm³ peripheral blood. (Onodera T et al. Nihon Geka Gakkai Zasshi. 1984) Unfortunately, there were a lot of missing data (n=51) of lymphocytes counts in this retrospective study. We considered that most of the PNI was correlated with serum albumin level. We changed the PNI to Albumin in revised manuscript and in Table 1.

Comment 2.

Misspelling: The 5-year DSF (DFS) of the patients with stage II and III disease were 47.4% and 55.1%, respectively.

Author's response

Thank you for your helpful comment. We have corrected spelling in the revised manuscript.

Comment 3.

In the present study, T4 tumor status and R1 resection are independent prognostic factors. Survival curves based on Kaplan-Meier method should be indicated as a Figure.

Author's response

Thank you very much for your suggestion. We added Kaplan-Meier curves of T4 and R1 in Figure 4 and noted about it in the revised manuscript (page 13, line 1).

As above mentioned, we adopted reviewers' comments and suggestions, and revised the manuscript. We appreciate, if you could review the manuscript and reconsider the possibility of publication in World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Best regards,

Atsushi Ishibe M.D. Ph.D.
Assistant professor
Dept. Gastroenterological Surgery, Yokohama City University
Graduate School of Medicine
E-mail: aishibe@yokohama-cu.ac.jp