

## Answering Reviewers

Reviewer #1:

1- The references should be updated.

The reference section was completely revised and updated as required.

2- It is a very comprehensive study including a high number of cases but the discussion is too short, it should be added more detail and comments about the searched literature as the new parts of the discussion.

The discussion section was completely revised as required

3- Abstract is too short and should be more informative, the journal lets 350 words but this abstract has 151 words, Please add at least 100 new word to make abstract to make more more informative.

The abstract was revised accordingly and it was also divided by different sections following the WJGS author guidelines.

Reviewer #2:

**Conclusion:** Accept (High priority)

Reviewer #3:

1-2 There is no explanation for lymph node dissection in this article. D2 lymph node dissection is the standard treatment for advanced gastric cancer in Asia. What is the therapeutic effect of lymph node dissection? Please divide into D1 group, D1+ group and D2 group. Standard D2 lymph node dissection may not have been performed in the elderly or high-risk patients with advanced gastric cancer. As a result, it is presumed that the prognosis (OS, DSS) was poor. Please discuss.

We agree with the reviewer and we added a section with this consideration.

3. Surgeons believe that proper lymph node dissection, rather than a detailed examination of the number of lymph node dissections, will prolong the prognosis. Please discuss.

We added this consideration in the discussion.

4. If there are few lymph nodes that have been pathologically examined, the stage migrates to the initial stage. Please state your considerations regarding stage migration.

The issue related to stage migration was added in the discussion.

5. Please provide details including regimen in neoadjuvant chemotherapy and adjuvant chemotherapy.

The type of drugs administered is difficult to evaluate from the SEER database. This was added as a study limitation.

**Science editor:** This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG.

(1) The language classification is Grade C.

The manuscript was revised by an Editing and Proofreading Services company (Scribendi).

(2) The title is too long, and it should be no more than 18 words

The title was changed accordingly.

(3) The “Author Contributions” section is missing.

This section was added.

(4) The authors did not provide original pictures.

Figures were prepared using PPT as required and attached separately.

(5) PMID and DOI numbers are missing in the reference list.

The reference list was updated as required and Endnote was used with the relative WJGS output style.

(6) The “Article Highlights” section is missing.

The “Article Highlights” section was added as required

(7) The authors need to download and fill out the STROBE checklist with page numbers

Done.

(8) Please upload the primary version (PDF) of the Institutional Review Board’s official approval.

This is not applicable to the present study (for a population-based study it’s not necessary the IRB approval from our institution)