

Answering Reviewers

Comments:

Comment 1: Footnotes for Tables may be revised to indicate the difference between p value from χ^2 test or Fisher's exact test, and t test or Mann-Whitney U test with alphabets. Significance may be indicated in Tables with asterisk.

Response: Thank you for your important suggestion. In accordance with your remarks, we have specified the test used for each comparison in the table footnotes. In addition, an asterisk has been used to indicate a significant value.

Comment 2: In discussion, the description about the comparison between SB Jr knife and Flush knife needs to be revised to be clearer.

Response: Thank you for your important comment. The initial explanation may have been confusing for readers. Use of the SB Jr has been reported to be associated with an increased completion rate of colorectal ESD by non-experts. Accordingly, the following changes have been made to the manuscript.

Original manuscript (page 14, lines 4-8): "It was reported that self-completion rate of ESD with SB Jr knife was significantly higher than that with the Flush knife for colorectal neoplasms^[11]; there was no difference in median procedure time of ESD with self-completion between the two groups (59 min in SB Jr group vs 51 min in Flush group; $P=0.14$)."

Revised manuscript (page 14, lines 5-8): "Rescue usage of the SB Jr knife has been reported to increase the self-completion rate of ESD of colorectal neoplasms using the Flush knife (63% in the SB Jr knife group vs. 39% in the Flush knife only group; $P=0.03$), without increasing the procedure time (59 min vs. 51 min; $P=0.14$)^[11]"

Comment 3: In „Discussion” section: Page 16, line 15– „Clutch” instead of „Cultch” should be rectified – Anyway, the manuscript is very well written with appropriate up to date discussions.

Response: Thank you for pointing out our mistake. Accordingly, the following change was made to the manuscript (page 16, lines 19-22): “We cannot compensate for this bias because the Clutch Cutter was used mainly in the latter phase of this study; other devices were used mainly in former phase of this study, which may also affect outcomes.”