

Answer to the reviewers

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the reviewers who identified areas of the manuscript that needed corrections or modification. We agreed with your suggestions, and based on the instructions provided in the decision letter and comments provided by the reviewers, we have revised the manuscript by modifying the relevant text to the best of our ability. We hope that the revised manuscript is suitable for publication.

Our point-by-point responses to the comments raised by the reviewers are as follows:

Reviewer 1

This study investigating the multi-detector spiral computed tomography for diagnosing the lymph node metastasis is very important in gastric cancer field. Conclusion in Abstract may be revised to include the other reasons (such as the contrast etc.) why the specificity was low as 47%, since the sensitivity was high.

As you pointed out, we seem to have omitted the conclusion in abstract excessively. The conclusion in abstract have been revised as follows to show the content exactly:

‘The ability of MDCT to contribute to a nodal diagnosis of advanced gastric cancer was examined prospectively with precise size data from node mapping, using a CV of 7.6 mm for the long axis that was calculated from the retrospectively collected data. The sensitivity was as high as 91%, and would be improved when referring to the enhanced patterns. However, its specificity was as low as 47%, because most of metastatic nodes in gastric cancer being small in size. The small nodular or peripheral type metastatic nodes were often small and considered difficult to diagnose.’

The title and footnotes of Table 4 may be revised to include more detailed information.

We rewrote the titles and footnotes of Table 4 in detail to make it clear.

The x axis in Figure 6 needs the unit.

We added the description and units of the horizontal axis in Figure 6.

Reviewer 2

Very good study and very honest manuscript. These findings warrant validation in a larger cohort.

Thank you very much for your kindly comments.

Reviewer 3

The unit for X axis may be needed for Figure 6. Distribution of lymph node metastasis.

We added the description and units of the horizontal axis in Figure 6.