

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

June 16, 2015

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 18189-review.doc).

Title: Diagnosis of small intramucosal signet ring cell carcinoma of the stomach by non-magnifying narrow-band imaging: a pilot study

Author: Jiro Watari, Toshihiko Tomita, Hisatomo Ikehara, Masato Taki, Tomohiro Ogawa, Takahisa Yamasaki, Takashi Kondo, Fumihiko Toyoshima, Jun Sakurai, Tomoaki Kono, Katsuyuki Tozawa, Yoshio Ohda, Tadayuki Oshima, Hirokazu Fukui, Seiichi Hirota, Hiroto Miwa

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 18189

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

- (1) **Comment 1:** Figures 1C and 3E: it is really hard to see the cancer on H&E. The authors may want to add or replace the pics by a pancytokeratin stain to make it more easy for the inexperienced reader to identity. Personally, I would prefer to add a pancytokeratin.

Response: Thank you for the kind comment. According to the reviewer's comment, we have added the pictures of pancytokeratin staining, AE1/AE3.

- (2) **Comment 2:** Prognosis of advanced signet ring cell carcinoma: I share the authors view that early SRCs has a better prognosis than other types. I think with advanced SRCs the prognosis is worth. The Cunningham et al study showed this nicely. The reason is probably to be seen in the higher rate of peritoneal spread. The authors may want to cite the Cunningham Follow up Study as well but still mention that some other authors see it more controversial.

Response: Thank you for the kind suggestions. Unfortunately, we could not find appropriate articles regarding SRCs by Dr. Cunningham via PubMed. However, recent studies by Piessen et al. (Ann Surg 2009;250:878-87) and Gronnier et al. (Surgery 2013;154:1093-9) showed that SRC was a major and independent predictor of poor prognosis due to specific characteristics such as more infiltrating tumors showing affinity for lymphatic tissue accompanied by a higher rate of peritoneal carcinomatosis. These articles were cited in our papers.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jiro Watari', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jiro Watari, MD, PhD

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