Reviewer’s report

**Title:** The Optimal Screening Interval for Gastric Cancer using Esophago-gastro-duodenoscopy in Japan

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 19 April 2012

**Reviewer:** Kenneth E.L. McColl

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More information is required concerning the exact protocol for the endoscopies.

**Major Compulsory Revisions:**

1. Did each patient have an annual endoscopy over the five year period? Were any lost to follow-up? If so details of that are required. If a patient was found to have gastric cancer were they then removed from further annual follow-up?

2. Further details are also required regarding the stage of each cancer diagnosed.

3. Had any of the patients had an endoscopy before they were entered into this endoscopy screening protocol?

4. Surely the stage and curability of the cancer detected is more important than the actual incidence? This should be discussed.

5. The most important risk factor for the development of gastric cancer is atrophic gastritis. Information is required concerning the presence and severity of histological atrophy of both the antral and body mucosa and relationship between that and the subsequent risk of gastric cancer.

6. When determining the frequency of screening for gastric cancer it is surely important to take into account the influence of atrophic gastritis.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.