Author's response to reviews

Title: Methylene Blue-Assisted Technique for Harvesting Lymph Nodes after Radical Surgery for Gastric cancer: A Prospective Randomized Phase III Study

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**Answer to comments.**

**Comment 1:** A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/award from a charitable foundation).

**Answer to comment:** We don't consider to be externally funded.

**Comment 2:** If a study has not received external funding, then the study protocol will be sent for peer-review with a member of our Editorial Board.

**Answer to comment:** We do not receive the external funding. Please send for peer-review with a member of the Editorial Board.

**Comment 3:** If a study has received funding/assistance from a commercial organization, this should be clearly stated in the 'competing interests' section of your manuscript, and the study protocol will be sent for peer-review by a member of our Editorial Board.

**Answer to comment:** We do not receive funding/assistance from a commercial organization.

**Comment 4:** If your documents are not in English, please could you provide translated versions of the relevant parts. These should be endorsed and signed by a contactable person at the institution. Please also include the original documents.

**Answer to comment:** We translate our Japanese protocol to English version. We attached the Japanese protocol and English protocol.

**Comment 5:** N.B. Proof of external funding should include details of the amount of funding that was awarded for your study.

**Answer to comment:** We do not receive the external funding.

**Comment 6:** Could you also provide a list of any manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol?

**Answer to comment:** We do not have any manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol.