Reviewer's report

Title: Gastric cancer surgery: Billroth I or Billroth II for distal gastrectomy?

Version: 2 Date: 29 August 2009

Reviewer: Shigefumi Yoshino

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The authors said that the risk adjusted complication rate was 1.03 for the Billroth I group and 0.74 for Billroth II and this concerned poorer surgical outcome in the Billroth II group. The authors should show the relationship between the risk adjusted complication rate and postoperative complications. I guess all patients have individual risk adjusted complication rates so that 1.03 for the Billroth I and 0.74 for Billroth II are average points. The authors should investigate whether individual risk adjusted complication rates correlate well with postoperative complications or not by the statistical analysis. Indeed, the formula how to calculate the risk adjusted complication rate and the statistical analysis should be indicated in methods.

Minor Essential Revisions
2. The number of tables should be arranged in order.

Minor Essential Revisions
3. NPO appears only once so the abbreviation is not necessary.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.