Reviewer's report

Title: Essential pre-treatment imaging examinations in patients with endoscopically-diagnosed early gastric cancer

Version: 2 Date: 9 February 2010

Reviewer: Kyosuke Tanaka

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The submitted manuscript presents an interesting report of discussing which imaging procedures are truly necessary before treatment of early gastric cancer (EGC). While the manuscript gives interesting information regarding the usefulness of imaging procedures before treatment some concerns remain to be clarified.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

General

Authors described that contrast-enhanced abdominal CT not have to need for treatment eEGC. However, the advantage of omitting contrast-enhanced abdominal CT, such as cost and radiation exposure, is not so described.

Result

Imaging findings and changes in treatment indication and strategy

1. Page 9. CT found suspicion of lymphadenopathy in the upper abdomen in eight patients. However, pathologically positive lymph nodes in 10 patients were not detected by CT and US. Were CT positive findings pathologically negative? The description of this passage was complex.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Result

Treatment selection, pathological diagnosis and patient prognosis

1. Page 8. The authors added clinical stage of EGCs. Gastric cancer with T2 depth is not EGCs and is advanced cancer. EGCs should be changed gastric cancers.

2. T1(m)N1 is very rare. What is the histopathological diagnosis of the lesion.

Conclusions
3. Page 14. “Gastric cancers with suspected sm invasion” is better than “sm cancers”.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.