Author's response to reviews

Title: Port site herniation of the small bowel following laparoscopy-assisted distal gastrectomy.

Authors:
Tsuyoshi Itoh (tito@koto.kpu-m.ac.jp)
Nobuaki Fuji (nfuji@koto.kpu-m.ac.jp)
Hiroki Taniguchi (htan@koto.kpu-m.ac.jp)
Taiji Watanabe (watanabe@yosa-hp.jp)
Toshiyuki Kosuga (kosuga@kpu-m.ac.jp)
Kingo Kashimoto (kashimoto@yosa-hp.jp)
Kazuyo Naito (naito@yosa-hp.jp)

Version: 9 Date: 21 October 2007

Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editors; I am very grateful to you and reviewers for careful consideration of our manuscript. Although reviewer 1 stated that we did not provide any new information in this report, there has been few reports describing the port site hernia developed into staple failure or anastomotic insufficiency. Therefore, we believe that this case is worth reporting. although the port site hernia itself is well recognized. According to the comments by reviewer 2, we made some correction or addition regarding following points.

1) According to the first two comments, we provided references of each sentences in the Introduction section.

2) We clarified the type of lymphatic dissection as D1 in addition to the nodes surrounding the origin of the left gastric artery (page 3, line 20- page 4, line 1).

3) Regarding the last two comments, we agree with reviewer's comments and actually cited Shaher’s paper as reference #7 in the original manuscript. We added the second paper recommended by reviewer 2 as the reference #8 and made some sentences about the techniques for port site closure in the Discussion section (page 7, line12- line19).