Author's response to reviews

Title: A pilot study of individualized comprehensive treatment for gastric cancer with para-aortic lymph node metastases

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Cuong P Duong:

We revised typographical and grammar errors you pointed out.

1. We use CT scan for staging and PET-CT is only for patients with suspected recurrent.

2. We rewrote the sentences (line 52, 53 and line 204, 205, used to be line 56, 57 and line 244, 245) to make it more accurate.

3. We make sure that abbreviations are used only after they are defined.

4. We defined No. 16 LN as para-aortic LN (line 70).

5. Laparoscopy combined with peritoneal cytology was performed in patients with potentially liver and peritoneal metastases (line 102). And if there were liver or peritoneal metastasis, patients would not be enrolled in the study.

6. It was a mistake while writing the paper, actually, all 32 resected specimens were examined for pathological response. We corrected it.

7. We performed D2 dissection, not D3. Then we performed radiotherapy to the region of para-aortic lymph node metastases after surgery. Seen in the treatment protocol.
8. There is no doubt that gastrectomy with D2 lymphadenectomy contributes to improve patient outcome, and we discussed this in the last paragraph as you suggested.

Responses to reviewer Dr. Christoph Elsing:

As you mentioned, the progress of our study is the neoadjuvant chemotherapy via intra-arterial and intravenous administration, and we highlighted it.

Between January 2005 and January 2010, there was totally 876 hospitalized patients treated for gastric cancer in our center, we included this information in our paper (line 98). Unfortunately, we didn’t routinely examine Her2/neu receptor during that time.

We clarified the treatment protocol and the indication for radiotherapy in the methods section. Also, we revised the typographical and grammar errors you pointed out.

Thanks again for your detailed review and helpful suggestions.

Sincerely
Qi He
On behalf of Dr. Guoli Li