Author's response to reviews

Title: Impact of postoperative major complications on long-term survival after radical resection of gastric cancer

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Author's response to reviews:

Joshua Mammen (Reviewer 2): 1. Numerous grammatical and syntax errors throughout the manuscript. I would recommend a review from an expert in English to make the necessary corrections.

Author: The manuscript has been carefully reviewed by an experienced editor (enago, Crayol) whose first language is English and who specializes in editing papers written by scientists whose native language is not English.
Joshua Mammen (Reviewer 2): 2. I would like the authors to explain why the bleeding criteria for complications only include the first 24 hours after surgery. Often those complications are seen later.

Author: The main reason was that postoperative bleeding within 24 h was caused by surgical technique. Most of the delayed bleeding was caused by abdominal infection. Complications related to abdominal infection have been mentioned in the revised version of the manuscript. Instances of anastomotic and abdominal bleeding included in the study occurred within 24 h after surgery.

Joshua Mammen (Reviewer 2): 3. The authors mention only 2 post operative deaths, but the time frame is not clear. Please clarify.

Author: Two patients died from postoperative complications—one at 11 days after surgery because of an uncontrollable postoperative infection and the other following deterioration of postoperative gastric stasis after 4 months (Results section, lines 6–10, page 8).

Joshua Mammen (Reviewer 2): 4. The authors mention a 3 year post surgery follow-up, but it is unclear if all patients were followed for that time frame; please clarify.

Author: Complete follow-up was available for all patients who were followed with a standardized protocol at our institution (Materials and Methods section, lines 17-18, page 6).