

Peer Review File

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Reviewer comments

Method

Comment 1: Please, clarify the definition of the timing of postoperative complications. Are the postoperative complications only in the hospital? Are they included after discharge? Are they within 30 days after surgery?

Reply 1: Postoperative complications were defined as those occurring within 30 days after surgery and included patients discharged from hospital. Discharged patients were asked about their condition by telephone or other means.

Comment 2: Please add the pathological findings (pathological stage).

Reply 2: we have modified our text as advised (see table 1).

Comment 3: Is it related to obesity and fat necrosis?

Reply 3: we can see from table 2 that the seasonal variation is significantly related to fat necrosis, and whether it is related to obesity is not counted.

Table 1

Comment 4: Preoperative treatment - Surgery is not needed.

I think it is better to change "preoperative treatment" to simply "NCT".

Reply 4: we have modified our text as advised (see table 1).

Discussion

Comment 5: P8L182-184 Some studies have shown that seasonal changes can also affect the occurrence of postoperative complications, which may be related to seasonal temperature changes.----Please list the cited references.

Reply 5: we have modified our text as advised (see Page 8, line185).

Comment 6: P8198-P9L200 However, some studies have reported that the incidence of pneumonia in fall and winter after CABG is significantly higher than that in spring and summer, and the same may also be true of other cardiothoracic surgeries. ----Please list the cited references.

Reply 6: we have modified our text as advised (see Page 8-9, line199-202).

Comment 7: P10L224-L227 It also suggests that we should pay special attention to active dressing changes in spring and summer and observe the healing of incisions while minimizing the chance of exposure in a high-temperature environment.----- Is the suggestion for active dressing changes based on medical evidence? Is it based on the author's empirical evidence? I think that some surgeons may consider it more effective to wash the wound with water to prevent complications.

Reply 7: This suggestion is not evidence-based and is based on our long-term clinical

experience. We usually use iodophor instead of water for dressing change, so washing the wound with water has not been studied.

Comment 8: The proportion of smokers and the mean number of lymph nodes dissected per patient in the non-summer group were significantly higher than those in the summer group.

How did these outcomes affect postoperative complications? Is it possible to create some bias between the two groups? It is necessary to add a supplementary statement to these results.

Reply 8: we have modified our text as advised (see Page 11, line254-256). This difference may affect postoperative complications, but this study is a retrospective study, so it is difficult to achieve perfection. This is also an inherent disadvantage of retrospective studies.

Language Editing

Comment 9: Sentence fragments (with no main verb) should be edited: eg, “To clarify the relationship between postoperative complications of esophageal cancer and season, with the goal of reducing the incidence of complications.”

Reply 9: we have modified our text as advised (see Page 2, line47-49).

Comment 10: References to study findings are using the past tense without providing context (eg, year, period, study etc); this should be provided or it should be written in present tense to indicate this is a general fact: eg, “In recent years, some studies have shown that the occurrence of postoperative complications was related to seasonal changes; for instance, the chance of postoperative incision infection in patients undergoing surgery in warmer seasons is significantly higher than that in other seasons”.

Reply 10: we have modified our text as advised (see Page 3, line83).

Comment 11: “The independent-sample T test” should be “t test”.

Reply 11: we have modified our text as advised (see Page 6, line140).

Comment 12: Ranges with negative numbers should be expressed with the word “to” not a hyphen: eg, “12.69% – -0.52%”.

Reply 12: we have modified our text as advised (see Page 6, line155 and table 2).

Comment 13: Figures/tables in the text are not being introduced with the present tense: eg “Details of postoperative complications in the two groups were shown in Table 2”.

Reply 13: we have modified our text as advised (see Page 7, line162).

Comment 14: There is awkward/confusing repetition of “which”: eg, “Our study found that the occurrence of postoperative complications of esophageal cancer surgery is related to seasonal changes, which can guide clinicians to focus on the prevention of complications in the corresponding seasons, which will be conducive to reducing the

occurrence of complications and improving the life quality of patients.”

Reply 14: we have modified our text as advised (see Page 11, line246-247).