



Is D2 laparoscopic gastrectomy essential for elderly patients with advanced gastric cancer? – reply letter

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We would like to thank the editorial authors for commenting on “Is D2 laparoscopic gastrectomy essential for elderly patients with advanced gastric cancer? A propensity score matched analysis”.

This study demonstrated the possible association between D2 laparoscopic gastrectomy (LG) and increased complication rate and no survival benefit of D2 LG in elderly patients (1).

Feng *et al.* commented on perioperative chemotherapy for gastric cancer (GC) patients. Regarding neoadjuvant chemotherapy, we do not have solid evidence which can be applied to Japanese practice. Next, Japanese Gastric Cancer Treatment Guideline recommends adjuvant chemotherapy for patients with advanced GC based on the ACTS-GC study and the CLASSIC study. However, median age was 63 and 56 years in the ACTS-GC study and the CLASSIC study, respectively (2,3). In Japanese real world, adjuvant chemotherapy for elderly patients is performed at surgeon’s discretion. Therefore, I believed our cohort represented Japanese practice. As Feng *et al.* proposed, GC patients without adjuvant chemotherapy may need to be elaborated. However, only a few patients received adjuvant chemotherapy in this study. Our conclusion was not affected, if we excluded the patients who received adjuvant chemotherapy.

The optimal extent of lymph node (LN) dissection

and the number of retrieved LNs are important factor to improve outcomes of GC patients. In our study, D1+ dissection was performed in almost all non-D2 cases. Our procedures of D1+ were sophisticated and high quality. That’s why there was no difference in the harvested LN number, leading to no significant differences in the OS and RFS.

The sample size was one of limitations in our study. We did not deny D2 dissection for elderly patients but suggest possibility that D2 dissection was not needed in all elderly patients with gastric cancer. I completely agree with your opinion that further more well-designed studies with a large sample size are still needed to further validate these findings.

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Ethical Statement: The author is accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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