

## Peer Review File

Article information: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jtd-23-848>

### Reviewer A

I congratulate you for the meaningful study. The findings are important.

Implications and actions to be taken are wise.

I do not have any suggestion to improve the manuscript.

**Reply:** We thank you for reviewing our manuscript and you encouraging words.

### Reviewer B

Based on the abstract, there is not much technical information that needs changing.

All aspects appear to be clear and concise.

**Reply:** We thank you for reviewing our manuscript and you encouraging words.

### Reviewer C

I think the results of this study are interesting as one of the studies that deal with ESCC. In order to better this manuscript, I have the following comments.

1. How was AEF diagnosed? In addition, how was the clinical course? Summarize in the result section.

**Reply 1:** We thank you for your valuable comment. In accordance with the recommendations, the diagnostic criteria for AEF and post-AEF outcomes were added to the Methods section and the clinical course was added to the Results section.

**Changes in the text:** Please see lines: 91-93 on pages: 6-7 and lines: 153-160 on pages: 9-10.

2. Could you discuss why patients with AEF were significantly more likely to have received induction chemotherapy? For example, could you consider the relationship between induction chemotherapy and CT parameters, WBC, and CRP?

**Reply 2:** We thank you for your insightful advice. As you pointed out, a discussion of the relationship between the development of AEF and induction chemotherapy was added to the Discussion section.

**Changes in the text:** Please see lines: 236-243 on page 13.

### Reviewer D

Hirohata et al. investigated the risk factors for aorto-esophageal fistula in cT4b

esophageal squamous cell carcinoma after definitive radiation therapy. As AEF after DRT is a life-threatening complication during the treatment, this manuscript will provide useful clinical information for readers. Several changes will improve the quality of this manuscript.

1. Please describe the outcomes of patients who developed AEF. Were there any patients who underwent TEVAR after AEF? How were the results?

**Reply 1:** We thank you for your valuable comment. In accordance with the recommendations, the outcomes of emergency TEVAR after AEF were added to the Results section.

**Changes in the text:** Please see lines: 153-160 on pages 9-10.

2. Based on the findings shown in this manuscript, please further discuss the possible strategy to prevent fatal bleeding from AFE in patients with cT4b (Aorta) ESCC undergoing DRT, including the appropriate timing of TEVAR.

**Reply 2:** We thank you for your valuable comment. As per your comment, possible strategies based on the findings from this study were added to the Discussion section.

**Changes in the text:** Please see page: 15, lines: 273-278.