



Figure S1 The esophagus-mobilized retraction procedure. (A) The extent of lymphadenectomy along the left RLN (red area). The green areas are the left and right RLN. (B) Retracting the esophagus mobilized with a loop and rotating the trachea to the right with a 5-lobed liver retractor to expose the left RLN area. (C) The pretracheal soft tissue was dissociated along the anterior trachea by an electric hook and lifted to expose the left RLN. (D) Forceps were used to hollow the soft tissue of the left RLN. (E) An ultrasonic scalpel or scissors and Maryland bipolar forceps were used to cut the soft tissue and LNs of left RLN. (F) The left RLN in the skeletal state. RLN, recurrent laryngeal nerve; CCA, left common carotid artery; SCA, left subclavian artery; T, trachea.

Table S1 Status of the dissected regional LNs

Field	Location	LNMR (%)	LNPR (%)
Thoracic LN	Upper paraesophageal LN	3.19 (3/94)	4.24 (5/118)
	Left recurrent nerve LN	18.09 (17/94)	7.89 (30/380)
	Right recurrent nerve LN	14.89 (14/94)	7.99 (23/288)
	LN between left low paratracheal and main pulmonary artery (4L)	2.13 (2/94)	4.29 (3/70)
	Subcarinal LN	0 (0/94)	0 (0/398)
	Left main bronchus LN	2.13 (2/94)	6.78 (4/59)
	Right main bronchus LN	1.06 (1/94)	4.76 (1/21)
	Middle paraesophageal LN	4.26 (4/94)	5.77 (6/104)
	Lower paraesophageal LN	7.45 (7/94)	8.94 (11/123)
	Supradiaphragmatic LN	0 (0/94)	0 (0/81)
Abdominal LN	Cardiac around LN	11.70 (11/94)	6.80 (24/353)
	Left gastric artery LN	13.83 (13/94)	7.23 (17/235)
	Lesser curvature LN	3.19 (3/94)	2.68 (4/149)
	Common hepatic artery LN	0 (0/94)	0 (0/40)
	Splenic artery LN	1.06 (1/94)	2.08 (1/48)
	Celiac artery LN	0 (0/94)	0 (0/38)

In some regions, the number of LNs is less than the number of patients, indicating that these regions were cleaned, but no LNs were found during surgery. LN, lymph node; LNMR, lymph node metastasis rate; LNPR, lymph node positive rate.