LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Author's reply to letter to the editor: "After propensity score matching in long-term oncologic outcomes of robotic gastrectomy for gastric cancer compared with laparoscopic gastrectomy"

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Response to Dr. Kim:

We are very much thankful for your deep and thorough comment on our article [1]. Especially, we truly agreed to your concern for confusing data presented in this paper. As you mentioned, Table 1 showed incorrect data for clinical stage represented as cT, cN and cStage of the entire cohort. Moreover, in propensity-score matched group, the numbers of metastatic lymph nodes were reversed between the robotic group and laparoscopic group ("robotic vs. laparoscopic = 0.6 ± 2.4 vs. 1.0 ± 3.2" should be changed to "robotic vs. laparoscopic = 1.0 ± 3.2 vs. 0.6 ± 2.4").

All of the authors regret to recognize typing error too late, and would like to correct this error. The revised Table 1 is given in the following corrected Table 1.

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Table 1 Patient characteristics and clinicopathological features

	Entire cohort		$P^\dagger$	Propensity-score matched cohort		$P^\dagger$
	Robotic ($n=315$)	Laparoscopic ($n=525$)		Robotic ($n=311$)	Laparoscopic ($n=311$)	
Age (years) (range)	54.5 ± 12.6 (24–89)	59.3 ± 11.9 (24–88)	< 0.001[‡]	54.5 ± 12.6 (24–89)	54.8 ± 12.0 (24–83)	0.715[‡]
Sex			0.510			> 0.999
Male	189 (60.0%)	327 (62.3%)		187 (60.1%)	186 (59.8%)	
Female	126 (40.0%)	198 (37.7%)		124 (39.9%)	125 (40.2%)	
Body mass index (kg/m^2)	23.6 ± 3.1	23.5 ± 2.9	0.670[‡]	23.6 ± 3.1	23.2 ± 2.8	0.082[‡]
Location			0.002			0.350
Upper third	49 (15.6%)	55 (10.4%)		46 (14.8%)	41 (13.2%)	
Middle third	107 (34.0%)	141 (26.9%)		106 (34.1%)	93 (29.9%)	
Lower third	159 (50.5%)	329 (62.7%)		159 (51.1%)	177 (56.9%)	
Size (mm)	25.5 ± 13.0	26.1 ± 14.6	0.522[‡]	25.3 ± 13.0	25.3 ± 15.0	> 0.999[‡]
Histology			0.116			0.628
Differentiated	136 (43.2%)	256 (48.8%)		135 (43.4%)	141 (45.3%)	
Undifferentiated	179 (56.8%)	269 (50.2%)		176 (56.6%)	170 (54.7%)	
Metastatic LN number	1.0 ± 3.1	0.6 ± 2.0	0.043[‡]	1.0 ± 3.2	0.6 ± 2.4	0.113[‡]
cT classification[§]			0.631			0.914
T1	284 (90.2%)	473 (90.1%)		282 (90.7%)	285 (91.6%)	
T2	28 (8.9%)	48 (9.1%)		27 (8.7%)	24 (7.8%)	
T3	2 (0.6%)	4 (0.8%)		2 (0.6%)	2 (0.6%)	
T4a	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)		0 (0%)	0 (0%)	
cN classification[§]			0.670			> 0.999
N0	296 (94.0%)	497 (94.7%)		294 (94.5%)	295 (94.9%)	
N1	19 (6.0%)	28 (5.3%)		17 (5.5%)	16 (5.1%)	
N2	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)		0 (0%)	0 (0%)	
cStage[§]			0.419			> 0.999
I	306 (97.1%)	510 (97.1%)		304 (97.7%)	303 (97.4%)	
II	8 (2.5%)	15 (2.9%)		7 (2.3%)	8 (2.6%)	
III	1 (0.4%)	0 (0.0%)		0 (0%)	0 (0%)	
pT classification[§]			0.038			0.675
T1a	118 (37.5%)	190 (36.2%)		117 (37.6%)	123 (39.5%)	
T1b	126 (40.0%)	222 (42.3%)		126 (40.5%)	133 (42.8%)	
T2	23 (7.3%)	63 (12.0%)		22 (7.1%)	19 (6.1%)	
T3	24 (7.6%)	24 (4.5%)		23 (7.4%)	15 (4.8%)	
T4a	24 (7.6%)	26 (5.0%)		22 (7.4%)	21 (6.8%)	
pN classification[§]			0.033			0.226
N0	249 (79.0%)	438 (83.4%)		246 (79.1%)	265 (85.2%)	
N1	34 (10.7%)	44 (8.4%)		33 (10.6%)	26 (8.4%)	
N2	15 (4.8%)	32 (6.1%)		15 (4.8%)	10 (3.2%)	
N3	17 (5.5%)	11 (2.1%)		17 (5.5%)	10 (3.2%)	
pStage[§]			0.001			0.202
I	254 (80.6%)	441 (84.0%)		252 (81.0%)	267 (85.9%)	
II	30 (9.6%)	64 (12.2%)		29 (9.3%)	25 (8.0%)	
III	31 (9.8%)	20 (3.8%)		30 (9.6%)	19 (6.1%)	

LN lymph node

*Values are mean ± standard deviation

[†]Chi-square test or Fisher's exact test except

[‡]Student's *t* test

[§]UICC classification, 7th edition

Reference

1. Obama K, Kim YM, Kang DR, Son T, Kim HI, Noh SH, Hyung WJ. Long-term oncologic outcomes of robotic gastrectomy for gastric cancer compared with laparoscopic gastrectomy. Gastric Cancer. 2018;21:285–95.