Table 1 Clinicopathological Characteristics of the Patients

•	All patients (n=856)	Transfused $(n=154)$	Non-transfused ($n=702$)	P value
Age, years (mean±SD)	64±12	67±10	63±12	0.0004
Sex (male/female)	610/246	111/43	499/203	NS
BMI (mean±SD)	22±3	22±4	22±3	NS
Approach (Open/Lap)	794/62	149/5	645/57	0.038
Type of gastrectomy (DG/TG/PG)	498/322/36	47/104/3	451/218/33	< 0.0001
Splenectomy (yes/no)	245/611	82/72	163/539	< 0.0001
Pancreaticosplenectomy (yes/no)	38/818	18/136	20/682	< 0.0001
Lymph node dissection (D1/D2/D3)	264/472/120	38/76/40	226/396/80	< 0.0001
Duration of operation, min (mean±SD)	290±86	349±100	277±77	<0.0001
Blood loss, ml (mean±SD)	589±646	1,190±1,214	458±301	< 0.0001
Amounts of transfusions ^a , ml (mean±SD)	•	960±762		
Amounts of transfusions ^a , ml (0-400/401-800/>800)		50/51/53		
Tumor size, mm (mean±SD)	39±31	57±38	35±29	< 0.0001
Macroscopic type (localized/infiltrative)	586/270	77/77	509/193	< 0.0001
Histological type (differentiated/undifferentiated)	484/372	80/74	404/298	NS
Tumor infiltration ^b (T1/T2/T3/T4)	474/220/149/13	39/52/54/9	435/168/95/4	< 0.0001
Lymph node status ^b (N0/N1/N2/N3)	562/205/60/29	69/52/20/13	493/153/40/16	< 0.0001
Stage ^b (IA/IB/II/IIIA/IIIB/IV)	423/149/126/85/36/37	32/29/33/31/12/17	391/120/93/541/24/20	< 0.0001
Adjuvant chemotherapy (yes/no)	206/650	55/99	151/551	0.0004

SD standard deviation, NS not significant, BMI body mass index, Open open gastrectomy, Lap laparoscopy-assisted gastrectomy, DG distal gastrectomy, TG total gastrectomy, PG proximal gastrectomy

blood or less, whereas 53 patients received more than 800 ml. In both transfused and nontransfused groups, distributions were similar with regard to sex, body mass index (BMI), and histological differentiation (P > 0.05). The transfused patients tended to be older (P=0.0004), and among the transfused patients, there was a significantly higher proportion for whom open gastrectomy, total gastrectomy, additional organ resection (splenectomy or pancreaticosplenectomy), and extended para-aortic D3 lymphadenectomy were needed (P < 0.05). Duration of operation was longer and intraoperative blood loss was greater in the transfused patients (P<0.0001). In addition, transfused patients tended to have larger tumors and macroscopically infiltrative tumors (P < 0.0001). Tumors in the transfused group were more advanced with regard to depth of invasion and nodal stage (P<0.0001). The patients in the transfused group underwent adjuvant chemotherapy more frequently than did the nontransfused patients (P=0.0004).

Univariate and Multivariate Cox Analysis of Prognostic Factors

Univariate and multivariate overall survival analysis was calculated by the Cox proportional hazard regression model.

In univariate analysis, tumor size (\geq 40 mm; P<0.0001), differentiated type of tumor in histology (P=0.010), macroscopically infiltrative tumor (P<0.0001), tumor infiltration of serosa (P<0.0001), lymph node metastasis (P<0.0001), tumor invasion of lymphatic vessel (P<0.0001), tumor invasion of vein (P < 0.0001), duration of operation (<300 min; P=0.004), massive blood loss (P<0.0001), blood transfusions (P < 0.0001), postoperative complications (P=0.018), pulmonary disease (P=0.0004), and liver dysfunction (P=0.003) predicted decreased overall survival in all gastric cancer patients who underwent gastrectomy (Table 2). The multivariate analysis revealed macroscopically infiltrative tumor (P=0.040, hazards ratios [HR] = 1.39), tumor infiltration of serosa (P<0.0001, HR=2.43), lymph node metastasis (P=0.0010, HR=1.82), blood transfusions (P<0.0001, HR=2.69), pulmonary disease (P=0.014, HR=1.88), and liver dysfunction (P < 0.0001, HR=2.67) as independent prognostic factors in gastric cancer patients (Table 3). We also studied prognostic factors according to stage. In the stage I subgroup, blood transfusions, pulmonary disease, and liver dysfunction were prognostic factors; the HR were 3.65, 3.43, and 3.17, respectively. In the stage II subgroup, only blood transfusions (HR=3.25) predicted independent prognostic factors. In stages III and IV, only

^a Autologous transfusions were not included

^bUICC TNM classification

Table 2 Univariate Cox Proportional Hazard Model Analysis for Prognostic Factors

CI confidence interval, BMI

^a Autologous transfusions were

^b Anastomotic leakage, pancreatic fistula, and intra-abdominal abscess were defined as postoperative complications

body mass index

not included

Risk factors	Categories	P value	Hazards ratio (95% CI)
Tumor size (mm)	≥40 vs. <40	<0.0001	3.13 (2.38–4.10)
Histological type	Differentiated vs. undifferentiated	0.010	0.71 (0.54-0.92)
Macroscopic type	Infiltrative vs. localized	< 0.0001	2.90 (2.23-3.79)
Serosal invasion	Yes vs. no	< 0.0001	5.06 (3.86-6.62)
Lymph node metastasis	Yes vs. no	< 0.0001	3.93 (2.99-5.16)
Tumor invasion			
Lymphatic vessel	Yes vs. no	< 0.0001	3.67 (2.68-5.04)
Vein	Yes vs. no	< 0.0001	3.11 (2.37-4.08)
Duration of operation (min)	<300 vs. ≥300	0.004	0.68 (0.52-0.88)
Blood loss (ml)	≥1,000 vs. <1,000	< 0.0001	2.72 (1.98-3.73)
Blood transfusions ^a	Yes vs. no	<0.0001	4.12 (3.13-5.43)
Postoperative complications ^b	Yes vs. no	0.018	1.76 (1.16–2.82)
ВМІ	≥25 vs. <25	0.665	1.08 (0.75–1.56)
Concomitant disease			
Cardiovascular	Yes vs. no	0.106	1.35 (0.94–1.95)
Renal	Yes vs. no	0.262	1.59 (0.71-3.58)
Pulmonary	Yes vs. no	0.0004	2.44 (1.49-4.01)
Liver	Yes vs. no	0.003	1.90 (1.24-2.90)
Diabetes	Yes vs. no	0.816	1.06 (0.65-1.72)
Anemia	Yes vs. no	0.955	0.97 (0.36-2.61)

blood transfusions (HR=1.75) could be identified in the univariate analysis regarding the prognostic factors (Table 4).

Survival Rates

In overall and disease-specific survival, there were significant differences between the transfused and nontransfused groups (both P<0.0001). When patients were stratified by stage, there still were significant differences between the

two groups (P<0.01 for all comparisons of overall and disease-specific survival (Figs. 1 and 2).

Furthermore, we studied survival rates according to the amount of blood transfusions. The overall survival rate was significantly higher in the nontransfused than in the transfused group, regardless of the amount of transfused blood (P < 0.0001; Fig. 3). In addition, a dose-response relationship between the amount of transfused blood and the survival rate was not recognized (P > 0.05; Fig. 3).

Table 3 Multivariate Cox Proportional Hazard Model Analysis for Prognostic Factors

Risk factors	Categories	P value	Hazards ratio (95% CI)
Tumor size (mm)	≥40 vs. <40	0.262	1.21 (0.87–1.68)
Histological type	Differentiated vs. undifferentiated	0.503	1.10 (0.83-1.47)
Macroscopic type	Infiltrative vs. localized	0.040	1.39 (1.02-1.90)
Serosal invasion	Yes vs. no	< 0.0001	2.43 (1.73-3.42)
Lymph node metastasis	Yes vs. no	0.001	1.82 (1.27-2.59)
Tumor invasion			
Lymphatic vessel	Yes vs. no	0.385 .	1.21 (0.79–1.87)
Vein	Yes vs. no	0.184	1.25 (0.90-1.74)
Duration of operation (min)	<300 vs. ≥300	0.084	1.31 (0.97–1.76)
Blood loss (ml)	≥1,000 vs. <1,000	0.309	0.81 (0.55-1.21)
Blood transfusions ^a	Yes vs. no	< 0.0001	2.69 (1.92-3.77)
Postoperative complications ^b	Yes vs. no	0.178	1.40 (0.86–2.29)
Concomitant disease			
Pulmonary	Yes vs. no	0.014	1.88 (1.14–3.09)
Liver	Yes vs. no	<0.0001	2.67 (1.71–4.15)

CI confidence interval

^b Anastomotic leakage, pancreatic fistula, and intra-abdominal abscess were defined as postoperative complications



^a Autologous transfusions were not included

Table 4 Univariate and Multivariate Cox Proportional Hazard Model Analysis for Prognostic Factors (Subgroup Analysis)

Risk factors	Categories	Univariate analysis		Multivariate analysis	
		P value	Hazards ratio (95% CI)	P value	Hazards ratio (95% CI
A. Stage I ^a (n=572)					
Tumor size (mm)	≥40 vs. <40	0.021	1.79 (1.09-2.95)	0.318	1.33 (0.76–2.33)
Macroscopic type	Infiltrative vs. localized	0.003	2.20 (1.32–3.67)	0.076	1.71 (0.95–3.08)
Tumor invasion					•
Lymphatic vessel	Yes vs. no	0.032	1.65 (1.04-2.60)	0.669	1.14 (0.63-2.05)
Vein	Yes vs. no	0.049	1.66 (1.00-2.74)	0.583	0.83 (0.43–1.62)
Blood loss (ml)	≥1,000 vs. <1,000	0.017	2.26 (1.16-4.39)	0.388	0.69 (0.30–1.59)
Blood transfusions ^b	Yes vs. no	< 0.0001	3.99 (2.39-6.67)	0.0001	3.65 (1.89–7.05)
Concomitant disease		•			(,
Cardiovascular	Yes vs. no	0.011	2.02 (1.18-3.46)	0.411	1.29 (0.70-2.39)
Pulmonary	Yes vs. no	< 0.0001	4.81 (2.39-9.67)	0.001	3.43 (1.63–7.23)
Liver	Yes vs. no	< 0.0001	3.47 (2.00-6.03)	0.0003	3.17 (1.70-5.91)
B. Stage II ^a (n=126)					,
Tumor size (mm)	≥40 vs. <40	0.908	1.03 (0.58-1.83)		
Macroscopic type	Infiltrative vs. localized	0.417	0.79 (0.45–1.39)		
Tumor invasion			,		
Lymphatic vessel	Yes vs. no	0.784	1.18 (0.37-3.79)		
Vein	Yes vs. no	0.114	1.65 (0.89–3.05)		
Blood loss (ml)	≥1,000 vs. <1,000	0.348	1.47 (0.66–3.26)		
Blood transfusions ^b	Yes vs. no	< 0.0001	3.16 (1.80-5.56)	< 0.0001	3.25 (1.85-5.73)
Concomitant disease			, ,		(**************************************
Cardiovascular	Yes vs. no	0.058	1.96 (0.98-3.92)	0.228	1.70 (0.72-4.02)
Pulmonary	Yes vs. no	0.570	1.40 (0.44-4.51)		,
Liver	Yes vs. no	0.067	2.61 (0.94–7.27)	0.368	1.79 (0.50-6.39)
C. Stage III/IV ^a $(n=158)$,		(,
Tumor size (mm)	≥40 vs. <40	0.554	1.19 (0.67–2.10)		
Macroscopic type	Infiltrative vs. localized	0.625	1.12 (0.70–1.80)		
Tumor invasion					
Lymphatic vessel	Yes vs. no	0.808	1.15 (0.36-3.64)		
Vein	Yes vs. no	0.442	1.21 (0.74–1.99)		
Blood loss (ml)	≥1,000 vs. 1,000	0.185	1.33 (0.87–2.04)		
Blood transfusions ^b	Yes vs. no	0.007	1.75 (1.16–2.64)	0.007	1.75 (1.16–2.64)
Concomitant disease			• • • • • • • •		(
Cardiovascular	Yes vs. no	0.643	0.83 (0.39–1.80)		
Pulmonary	Yes vs. no	0.893	1.06 (0.43–2.62)		
Liver	Yes vs. no	0.520	1.39 (0.51–3.83)		

CI confidence interval

Risk Factors Influencing Blood Transfusion Requirement

Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed to identify risk factors influencing perioperative blood transfusion requirement. Table 5 shows the results of 16 parameters univariately and multivariately examined as

potential risk factors for the 154 patients with blood transfusions versus the 702 patients without blood transfusions. The logistic regression analysis identified that blood transfusion requirements were significantly associated with high age (≥65 years), long duration of operation (≥300 min), massive blood loss (≥1,000 ml), and anemia

^a TNM classification

^b Autologous transfusions were not included

Figure 1 Overall survival rates.

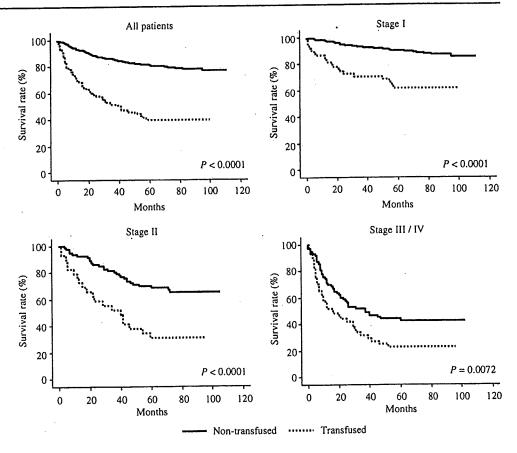
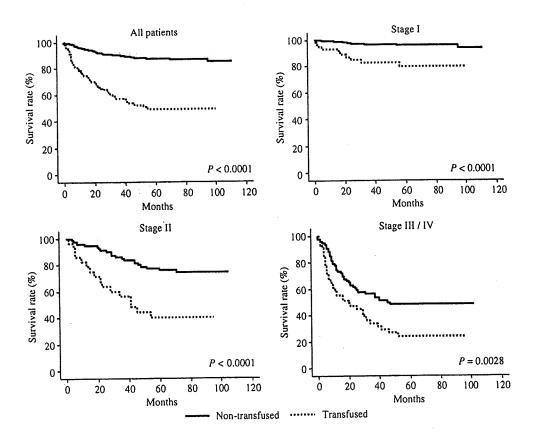


Figure 2 Disease-specific survival rates.





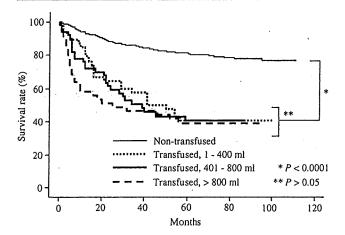


Figure 3 Overall survival rates according to the amount of transfusions.

(Hb<10 g/dl); the odds ratios were 3.15, 2.46, 11.62, and 8.08, respectively.

Discussion

The relationship between perioperative blood transfusions and survival in gastric cancer remains controversial. A previous study with 1,015 patients by Kampschöer et al. 10 showed no difference between 5-year survival rates in transfused and nontransfused patients grouped by stage. A study on 568 patients by Moriguchi et al. 11 also showed no relationship between perioperative blood transfusions and survival time of patients who underwent curative resection for gastric cancer. They described that effects of blood transfusions are closely associated with other prognostic covariates and there is no prognostic significance of blood transfusions on survival time, a finding repeated in several other studies. 12-14 On the other hand, some studies have shown an adverse relationship. Kaneda et al.17 first proposed that blood transfusions could have a negative influence on surviving gastric cancer. Their study showed that, in subgroups of patients stratified for stage, there was a significant difference in the range of survival time for stage I patients but not for patients at other stages. However, their analysis was performed on a relatively small group, and only univariate analyses were used for comparison. A large retrospective study by Dhar et al. have shown that the 5year disease-free survival was significantly worse in the transfused group and blood transfusion became an independent prognosticator in the multivariate analysis. 15 According to a recent study by Hyung et al. that was based on 1,710 patients, survival in transfused patients was clearly poorer than that in nontransfused patients with stage III and IV gastric cancer. 16 However, significant differences in survival rates were not found in stage I and II patients.

The authors described how immunosuppression of transfusions may cause progression of metastatic foci and failure to remove circulating cancer cells at an advanced cancer stage. ¹⁶

We performed multivariate analysis with the use of the Cox regression model, adjusting all the covariates simultaneously. Allogeneic blood transfusion was seen to have prognostic significance when all the 13 covariates were included in the Cox regression analysis of the 856 patients. When patients were stratified by stage, transfusion was independently predictive of shorter survival in patients at all disease stages. In most stage I and II patients, the spread of cancer is limited enough that cancer cells can be completely excised by the surgical procedure. However, it has been reported that some patients have minimal residual disease, even with early stages of gastric cancer.²⁷ Minimal residual disease is one of the major causes for tumor relapse after curative resection of the primary tumor in gastric cancer.²⁸ Heiss et al.²⁹ showed that the poorer prognosis linked to transfusion is mediated through an impact on minimal residual disease in gastric cancer patients after curative resection, and they described how transfusion-related immunosuppression affects minimal residual disease after curative tumor resection. These studies may support our findings that blood transfusions are independent prognostic factors for long-term survival even for early stage patients after curative gastrectomy.

In Japan, the current blood transfusions have routine leukodepletion, although blood transfusions at our facility did not routinely undergo leukodepletion during the time period of this study. Therefore, our results of the relationship between allogeneic blood transfusions and poor prognosis in gastric cancer patients might be reversed in the future.

As compared with a previous study at Yonsei University College of Medicine by Hyung et al., ¹⁶ our results showed significantly lower survival rates in transfused patients. Several speculations can be formed based on this difference. First, the transfused patients managed by Yonsei University College of Medicine were significantly younger than those in our institution (55 years vs. 67 years). Second, our data included five transfused patients who died within 1 month after the operation, whereas operative mortality cases were treated as censored data in the other study. Third, Hyung et al. excluded from their study patients who had undergone only D1 lymph node dissection due to concomitant disease. Therefore, we deduce that there was a low number of patients with serious concomitant disease in the study from Korea.

There have been very few reports on the relationship between the amount of transfused blood and survival rates. In gastrectomy, only the abovementioned study described a significant difference in the survival rates according to the amount of transfused blood. ¹⁶ In hepatic resection for colorectal metastases, patients with one- or two-unit transfusions had no significant difference in long-term survival than nontransfused patients. ³⁰ On the other hand, our results demonstrated that allogeneic blood transfusions had an important effect on prognosis, even if the amount of transfused blood was small. Allogeneic blood transfusions generally cause down-regulation of cellular immunity, with decreased cutaneous delayed type hypersensitivity, T-cell proliferation, and natural killer cell function, and it seems to

drive the immunosystem toward a T helper type 2 (Th 2) response and away from a Th 1 response.³¹ It was recently reported that CD4⁺CD25⁺ regulatory T cells are implicated in immunosuppression of transfusions.^{32,33} Furthermore, it is reported that this blood transfusion-related immunosuppression occurs regardless of the amount of transfused blood.^{31–34} That is consistent with our findings. On the other hand, our findings showed that the short-term survival of patients with massive blood transfusion >800 ml was poorer than that of patients with blood transfusion <800 ml. The 1-year survival

Table 5 Univariate and Multivariate Analysis of Risk Factors Influencing Blood Transfusion Requirements

make the second of the	P value	Odds ratio (95% CI)	P value	Odds ratio (95% CI)
Male	0.805	1.05 (0.71–1.55)		
Female				
≥65	<0.0001	2.20 (1.51–3.18)	< 0.0001	3.15 (1.97–5.02)
<65		•		
≥25	0.026	1.66 (1.06–2.58)	0.265	0.71 (0.39–1.30)
<25	transfer to the war	tare Tout		
TG/PG	<0.0001	4.09 (2.81–5.96)	0.060	1.80 (0.98–3.33)
DG		•		
Yes	<0.0001	3.77 (2.62–5.41)	0.693	1.14 (0.60–2.17)
No				
Yes	<0.0001	4.51 (2.33–8.76)	0.665	0.82 (0.34–2.01)
D3	<0.0001	2.73 (1.78–4.19)	0.139	1.55 (0.87–2.76)
	•			
	0.042	2.63 (1.04–6.68)	0.353	1.63 (0.58–4.60)
;				
	<0.0001	4.75 (3.24–6.97)	0.0002	2.46 (1.52–3.99)
	2.00			
	<0.0001	16.24 (10.24–25.76)	<0.0001	11.62 (6.69–20.20)
		The set of west of		
	0.137	1.45 (0.89–2.35)		
		A STATE OF THE STATE OF		
	0.446	1.37 (0.61–3.08)		
and the second second		4.		
	0.219	0.28 (0.04–2.13)		
No				
Yes	0.109	1.66 (0.89–3.06)		
Yes	0.918	1.04 (0.54–1.99)		
No .				0.00 /2 = 1 = 2 =
	< 0.0001	7.33 (2.94–18.26	0.0002	8.08 (2.74–23.79)
	Female ≥65 <65 ≥25 <25 TG/PG DG Yes No Yes No D3 D1/D2 Open Lap ≥300 <300 ≥1,000 <1,000 Yes No	Female ≥65	Female ≥65	Female ≥65

CI confidence interval, BMI body mass index, DG distal gastrectomy, TG total gastrectomy, PG proximal gastrectomy, Open open gastrectomy, Lap laparoscopy-assisted gastrectomy



rates were 93.2% for the nontransfused group, 80.6% for the group transfused with 1 to 400 ml, 72.0% for the transfused group with 401 to 800 ml, and 58.0% for the transfused group with more than 800 ml. We consider that massive blood transfusion may cause immunosuppression immediately after transfusion. Furthermore, serious complications associated with massive transfusion itself might be related to poor prognosis. Indeed, in our data, the rates of perioperative infectious complications were significantly higher in the transfused patients (4.3% vs. 13.0%). Consequently, if at all possible, we should avoid giving allogeneic blood transfusions when performing gastrectomy in gastric cancer patients.

However, Hb of <10 g/dl and an expectation of intraoperative blood loss exceeding 1,000 ml indicate a necessary transfusion in gastric cancer patients.³⁶ In our multivariate logistic regression analyses, high age (≥65 years), long duration of operation (≥300 min), massive blood loss (≥1,000 ml), and anemia (Hb<10 g/dl) were the significant risk factors influencing blood transfusion requirements. The odds ratio of massive blood loss was 11.6, and it was the highest value in these risk factors. Therefore, we must prevent unnecessary transfusions by meticulously limiting intraoperative bleeding through careful anatomical dissection and controlling bleeding with electrocoagulation, ultrasonic, laser devices, and collagensealing devices. According to a meta-analysis of laparoscopic and open gastrectomy for gastric cancer, laparoscopyassisted gastrectomy was associated with a significantly reduced rate of intraoperative blood loss.³⁷ Indeed, our data showed that the mean intraoperative blood loss was larger in the open gastrectomy group (620 + 658 ml) than in the laparoscopy group (197 + 245 ml). Considering avoidance of transfusion, laparoscopic approaches for early gastric cancer can be considered a valid option. In our data, the mean intraoperative bleeding was larger in stage III and IV groups than in stage I and II groups, and significantly more patients in stage III and IV groups required blood transfusion (data not shown). Therefore, neoadjuvant chemotherapy might play a pivotal role to improve the anatomical dissection of invasive malignancies when performing gastrectomy with radical lymph nodes dissection for advanced gastric cancer.

These abovementioned in potential risks of allogeneic blood transfusions have heightened interest in the use of autologous blood transfusion. However, the effects of autologous blood transfusion on immune function were yet unclear. 34,38 In addition, the use of the supply of red blood cell substitutes, such as perfluorocarbon emulsions or liposome-encapsulated hemoglobin, has been reported to reduce the need for blood transfusions in patients undergoing major surgery. 39 In fact, these red blood cell substitutes do not pose an infectious risk and have

favorable O₂ transport properties.⁴⁰ The use of these materials may reduce the incidence of intraoperative allogeneic blood transfusions in gastric cancer patients undergoing gastrectomy.

In conclusion, allogeneic blood transfusion was an independent prognostic factor for long-term survival in gastric cancer patients. As far as possible, we should avoid transfusing when performing gastrectomy for gastric cancer. Moreover, massive intraoperative bleeding was the most significant risk factor for blood transfusion requirements. Therefore, we should make an increased effort to reduce blood loss during the operation.

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幽門側胃切除術後過食を契機とした胃破裂の1例

国立病院機構四国がんセンター消化器外科

大田 耕司 栗田 啓 棚田 稔 小畠 誉也

野崎 功雄 久保 義郎 高嶋 成光

日消外会誌 42 (3):253~256, 2009年

症例報告

幽門側胃切除術後過食を契機とした胃破裂の1例

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症例は67歳の男性で、胃癌の診断で幽門側胃切除術、D2リンパ節郭清術、Billroth I 法による再建が施行され、14病日に軽快退院となった、25病日、すしを大量摂取した後に上腹部の激痛を訴え近医受診し、急性腹症にて当院紹介となった。来院時、腹部は板状硬で、CTでは上腹部を中心とした遊離ガスを認め、上部消化管穿孔の疑いにて緊急手術となった。開腹所見では、腹腔内には多量の無臭で混濁した腹水と米粒を認めた、胃は体上部大彎で長軸方向に約3cmの裂創が認められた、同部に明らかな炎症所見や潰瘍の形成は認められなかった。また、胃十二指腸吻合部にも明らかな異常を認めなかった。破裂部を縫合閉鎖し、腹腔内を洗浄、ドレナージを行った。術後約2週の透視でも、胃十二指腸吻合部に明らかな狭窄は認められなかった。過食による過膨張のために起こった胃破裂と考えられた。幽門側胃切除後の胃破裂は報告がなく、若干の考察を加えて報告する。

はじめに

特発性胃破裂は外傷や酸アルカリの服用など明らかな素因のない胃破裂をいい¹¹, まれな疾患である。今回,我々は幽門側胃切除術後に発症した特発性胃破裂の症例を経験したので,若干の文献的考察を加えて報告する.

症 例

症例:67歳,男性

主訴:上腹部痛

既往歴:高血圧症,高脂血症,不眠症にて内服 加療中.

現病歴:当院にて幽門前底部小彎の胃癌に対し 幽門側胃切除術, D2 リンパ節郭清, Billroth I 再建 が施行された (Fig. 1). 術後病理組織学的診断は mp, n1, P0H0M0 p-Stage II であった. 術後経過 良好にて術後 14 病日に退院となった. 退院時の経 口摂取は常食の 1/3 程度を分割摂取していた.

術後25 病日にすし屋にてすしを約20分で10 貫以上摂取した。この直後より上腹部に激痛が出

<2008年9月24日受理>別刷請求先:大田 耕司 〒791~0280 松山市南梅本町甲160 四国がんセンター消化器外科 現し、救急車にて近医を受診した. 急性腹症と診断され当院紹介受診となった. 発症より 4 時間であった.

入院時現症: 身長 165cm, 体重 52kg, 血圧 143/80mmHg, 脈拍 135 回/分, 呼吸 35 回/分, SpO₂91% 腹部は板状硬で著明な腹膜刺激症状を認めた. 圧痛の最強点は心窩部にあった.

入院時検査所見:白血球数が $2,800/\mu$ と低下し、ヘモグロビン11.1g/dlの軽度の貧血および血清クレアチニン値1.34mg/dlと上昇が認められた。CRPの上昇は認められなかった。

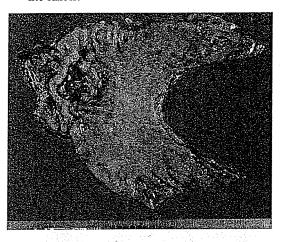
胸部 X 線検査所見:明らかな異常陰影は認められなかった.

腹部単純 CT 所見:残胃には大量の食物残渣が存在し,一部上腹部を中心とした腹水と腹腔内遊離ガスが認められ,上部小腸には炎症性の壁肥厚が認められた (Fig. 2a, b).

術前診断:以上より,急性腹症,その原因として吻合部潰瘍や十二指腸潰瘍などの上部消化管穿孔が疑われた.

手術所見:上腹部正中切開にて開腹した.腹腔内には無臭で混濁した腹水を約500ml 認めた.上

Fig. 1 The resected specimen showed type 2 gastric cancer.



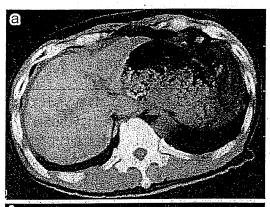
腹部を中心とした腹腔内には多量の米粒が認められた. 残胃の体上部大彎に長軸方向に約3cmにわたる裂創が認められた. 同部には明らかな潰瘍形成や粘膜の色調の変化は認められなかった (Fig. 3). 胃十二指腸吻合部に明らかな異常は認められなかった. 以上より, 過食を契機とした特発性胃破裂と診断した. 腹腔内を十分に洗浄した後に,同穿孔部を2層に縫合閉鎖し, 大網で被覆した. 腹腔内ドレナージを行い手術を終了した.

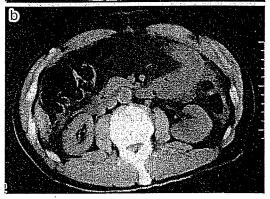
術後経過:3日間の集中治療室での全身管理を要した. 術後, 肺炎や創離開が認められたが, 保存的に軽快した. 今回の術後14病日の胃透視を示す(Fig. 4). 胃十二指腸吻合部に明かな通過障害を認めなかった. 術後87病日に退院となった.

考察

特発性胃破裂は、spontaneous rupture や unexpected rupture ともいわれ¹⁾、外傷や酸アルカリの服用などの明らかな素因のない胃破裂をいう²⁾、原因としては、胃の菲薄化を伴う過膨張があげられており、その誘因として過飲、過食、sodium bicarbonate の服用、胃出血、酸素カニューレによる酸素投与などが報告されている^{2)~6)}、また、十川ら⁶⁾の本邦12例の検討によると、7例で精神疾患の関与が認められている。術後に発症した報告は少なく、Nissen の fundoplication 術後の報告があるものの⁷、幽門側胃切除術後の報告は非常にまれであ

Fig. 2 Abdominal CT showed free air, ascites, dilatation of the stomach due to meal(a) and wall thickness of upper small intestine (b). A small part of the meal seemed to be out of the stomach.



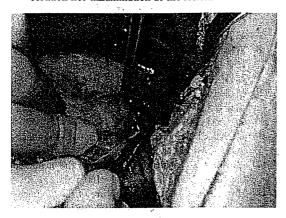


る. 医学中央雑誌で「胃破裂」「胃切除」をキーワードとして 1983 年から 2007 年までにつき検索したところ 2 例の報告⁸⁰⁹ (会議録) を認めるのみであった

奥村ら²によると過膨張状の胃が破裂する原因として物理的な要因と血流障害による要因の二つが考えられている.

物理的要因とは、過膨張した胃が嘔吐などのために、幽門と食道噴門接合部の閉鎖を生じ、胃内圧が急激に上昇し、主として伸展性の少ない小彎側に緊張が集中して破裂する場合を言う。Jefferis¹⁰は、食道胃接合部や小網により固定され膨張性に乏しい小彎や前壁が一般的に破裂しやすいと報告している。具体的には、4L以上の液体で胃が充満した場合¹⁰に胃破裂が起こるとされている。

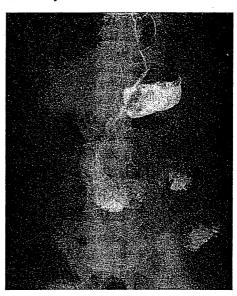
Fig. 3 Operative findings revealed an approoximately 3-cm logitudinal tear of the greater curvature of upper stomach body. There was neither ulceration nor inflammation at the lesion.



血流障害による要因とは、過膨張のため胃壁静脈圧を超える胃内圧の上昇が遷延し胃壁の血流障害、壊死が起こり破裂する場合を言う¹²⁾. 胃壁には血流障害が起こりやすい場所はないとされるため¹³⁾, この機序では胃破裂は小彎以外にも発生するといわれている.

本症例の胃破裂の原因としては、 すしの過食に より胃が急速に過膨張したことによる物理的要因 が主であると推察された. すしは一口で, 出され たらすぐに食べるのが粋な食べ方とされている. この食べ方では、食物が短時間で多量摂取され、 胃切除後のため容量の減少した残胃が過膨張を容 易に引き起こすことが推察される. また, よく咀 嚼されなかった米飯(しゃり)がブロック状の個 体として胃に蓄積され,術後25病日で胃十二指腸 吻合部が浮腫により狭窄していた可能性も考える と、これも原因の一因となったことは否めない。 また、物理的要因による胃破裂は一般に小彎に多 いとされているが10,本症例は大彎に裂創を来し ていた. これまでに報告された2症例も原因は物 理的要因と推察されたが、大彎に穿孔を来してい た899. この理由として、手術により胃の固定が胃 食道接合部, 体上中部大彎, 胃十二指腸吻合部と 変更されたこと, 胃十二指腸吻合は大彎側に作成 するため、大彎側が最も進展され、菲薄化しやす

Fig. 4 Roentgenoscopy showed: There was no stenosis at the gastrojejunostomy on 14th postoperative day.



い状態となっていたことなどが考えられた.また,本症例を含めいずれの症例でも D2 リンパ節郭清が行われており⁸⁹⁹, 左胃大網動脈領域のリンパ節郭清が胃破裂に影響をおよほしていることも推察された.

本疾患の診断は、術前に確定することが難しく、 その重症度、緊急度が高く急性腹症として手術されることが多い、本症例でも急性腹症として緊急 手術が行われた、突然出現する腹痛、腹部膨満、 腹腔内遊離ガスなどともに病歴の聴取が診断の決め手となると思われる²⁾.

本疾患の治療に関しては、汎発性腹膜炎に対する手術、併発するショックに対する全身管理の正否が治療成績を左右すると思われる。胃切除の必要性については議論があると思われるが、本症例のように縫合閉鎖することで治癒する症例もあり(1819)、穿孔部に明らかな血流障害がなければ、縫合閉鎖も一つの選択肢となりうると思われた。

胃切除術後の穿孔に対しては、最も重要なことは予防、すなわち食事指導と思われた. 当院では、1)1回食事量は術前食事量の1/3程度とする、2)おやつを含めて1日5から6回の食事回数とす

る,3)1回の咀嚼は10回以上行う,ということを胃切除の食事方法として推奨している。この少量類回摂取の食事指導が守られていれば,本症例の発症は予防できたと考えられ,本人の嗜好などに合わせた食事指導の重要性が再認識された.

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Spontaneous Gastric Rupture triggered Overextension due to Excessive Oral Intake following Distal Gastrectomy: A Case Report

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We report a case of spontaneous gastric rupture following distal gastrectomy. A 67-year-old man who underwent distal gastrectomy for gastric cancer and discharged our hospital on postoperative day (POD) 14, ate a large amount of sushi, then experienced severe enough gastric pain to be admitted in an emergency. Physical examination showed muscular defense in the upper abdomen. Computed tomography (CT) showed abdominal free air and ascites, necessitating emergency surgery for acute abdomen. Laparotomy findings included turbid ascites and numerous grain of rice in the upper abdomen. The upper gastric body had a 3-cm longitudinal tear at the greater curvature. Neither ulceration nor inflammation was seen, and diagnosing spontaneous gastric rupture, we sutured the lesion primarily in two layers and lavaged and drainaged the abdomen. No stenosis had been seen in X-ray imaging at the gastrojejunostomy on POD 14, so we concluded that excessive oral intake had overextended the stomach, triggering spontaneous gastric rupture.

Key words: spontaneous gastric rupture, distal gastrectomy; complication

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トピックス: 最近のがん治療

田

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ジラジのひののにおけるポイント ―

早期胃癌に対しては,近年,内視鏡的切除術が急速に普及している.一方,手術が必要な症例に対 してもさまざまな縮小手術が考案されており、腹腔鏡下手術も多くの施設で導入されている、進行が んに対しては定型的手術 (胃の2/3以上の切除とD2郭清) が実施されており、Stage I 、 II の症例に対してはS-1による術後補助化学療法の実施が推奨される。肝転移や腹膜播種などにより根治的切除 が不可能な症例や再発症例に対しては化学療法が選択される. 化学療法のレジメンに関しては、現時 点ではシスプラチン+S-1が標準治療と考えられているが、現在さまざまな臨床試験によってさらに 検討が進められている.

胃癌に対する治療方針は,原則として進行度に応じて胃癌治療ガイドラインに従って決定されてい る.さまざまな新しい治療法や研究的治療が実施されているが,実地臨床ではあくまでもエビデンス に基づいた治療方針の選択が重要である.

I 診断とStage分類

胃癌には特有の症状がないため、自覚症状から 胃癌を診断することは困難である. 何らかの消化 器症状などにより胃癌を疑った場合、まず始めに 内視鏡検査が施行される. 内視鏡検査により病変 が発見された場合は、生検による病理組織検査で 確定診断が得られる、胃癌と診断された場合に は、さらに治療方針を決定するために、CT検査、 上部消化管造影検査が施行される、超音波内視鏡 検査は欧米においてはその有用性が示唆されてい るが、わが国においては必須とは考えられていな い、腹腔鏡検査は腹膜播種・肝表面の小転移な ど、ほかの方法では診断不可能な微小な転移の診 断が可能であり、高度進行がんにおける治療方針 の決定に有用である。 PET 検査は胃癌の初期病変 診断には不適で、進行がんの転移診断も分化型の 転移の描出では優れるが、未分化型の診断能は低 いとされている. 総じてその有用性は確立されて

いない.

胃癌のStage分類としては、わが国では胃癌取 り扱い規約¹⁾による分類が使用されている (2009 年中に改訂予定). 胃癌取り扱い規約によるStage 分類を表1に示した. 胃癌のStageは, ほかの癌 種と同様にT因子とN因子で規定される、胃癌の 場合、T因子は壁深達度であり、T1~T4に分類さ

表1 胃癌の進行程度分類

Hamas	1 3 (20/27) X)	₹		
深達度:T分類		リシハ	節転移	
	なし:N0	T許まで:NI	2群まで:N2	3群まで:N3
粘膜(M)/粘膜 下層(SM):T1	IA期	IB期	II	N期
固有筋層 (MP)/ 漿膜下層 (SS): T2	IB期	耳期	IIA期	IV期
漿膜への浸潤 (SE): T3	耳期	ШАЩ	ПВЩ	N期
周囲の凝器へ直接 浸潤(SI): T4	ΠΑ期	ПВЩ	ИĦ	N期
肝臓転移(H)、腹のは N期	膜転移(P)、	ほかの臓器	器に転移 (M)	のあるも

れている、リンパ節転移に関しては欧米のTNM分類が転移個数で規定しているのに対し、胃癌取り扱い規約では、転移リンパ節の解剖学的位置関係

により第1群,第2群,第3群に分類している(次回の改訂ではTNM分類とほぼ同一になる予定).

Ⅱ治療方針の決定

胃癌の治療に関しては、胃癌治療ガイドライン(日本胃癌学会編)²⁾により各Stage分類別に日常診療における標準的治療(表2)と、臨床研究として行われる治療を区分して提示している(2009年中に改訂予定)。

1 早期胃癌

早期胃癌のうち肉眼的深達度がMで長径2cm 以下,組織型が分化型(pap. tub1, tub2)で病巣 内に潰瘍を伴わない症例に対しては内視鏡的粘膜 切除法が推奨されている。これ以外の早期胃癌に 対する内視鏡的治療は臨床研究として施行すべき であるとされている.近年,新しい器具の開発により内視鏡的粘膜下層剥離術 (endoscopic submucosal dissection : ESD) が急速に普及している. ESDではかなり大きな病巣でも一括切除が可能となるため,適応拡大病変として,深達度Mの分化型で潰瘍を伴うもので3cm以下,潰瘍を伴わないものでは大きさの制限を設けずにESDが施行されている.しかし,これはあくまでも臨床試験の段階であり,実地臨床における適応の拡大には慎重であるべきである.また,切除標本の詳細な観察は必須であり,一括切除が原則で,深達度がSM1を越える場合や脈管侵襲が陽性の場合は.

表2 日常診療におけるStage分類別の治療法の適応

我と 口市診察にのけるのにほどが規則の治療法の通応						
	N0	N1 _	N2	∴ N3 💮		
T1 (M)	I A期 EMR (一括切除) (分化型、2.0cm以下 陥凹型ではUL(一)) 縮小手術A *1 (上記以外)	IB期 縮小手術B (2.0cm以下) 定型手術 (2.1cm以上)	II期 定型手術	N期 拡大手術 姑息手術 化学療法 放射線療法 緩和医療		
T1 (SM)	IA期 縮小手術A (分化型1.5cm以下) 縮小手術B* ¹ (上記以外)					
Т2	IB期 定型手術 ^{*2}	Ⅱ期 定型手術	ⅢA期 定型手術			
ТЗ	Ⅱ期 定型手術	ⅡA期 定型手術	ⅢB期 定型手術			
T4	ⅢA期 拡大手術 (合切)*³	ⅢB期 拡大手術(合切)				

H1, P1, CY1 M1, 再発

Stage 別の手術法は術中の肉眼による Stage に基づいたものであり、縮小手術の適応において疑問の余地がある場合は定型手術が勧められる。

*1:縮小手術 A、B:定型的切除を胃の 2/3 以上切除とすると、それ未満の切除を縮小切除とする、オプションとして大網温存、網費切除の省略、幽門保存胃切除 (PPG)、迷走神経温存術などを併施する、また、リンバ節郭清の程度により縮小手術 A (D1+ α)と縮小手術 B (D1+ β) に分けた。

lphaの郭清部位:部位にかかわらずNo.7、また病変が下部にある場合はさらに No.8a を追加する、

βの郭清部位: No.7、8a、9を郭清する. *2:定型手術:胃の2/3以上切除とD2郭清.

*3: 拡大手術(合切): 定型手術十他臟器合併切除.

リンパ節郭清を伴う胃切除術が必要である.

内視鏡的治療が適応とならない早期胃癌でNOの症例,もしくはN1で腫瘍長径が2cm以下の症例は縮小手術の適応とされている。縮小手術とは、定型的胃切除術(後述)に対比して、リンパ節郭清範囲や切除範囲の縮小、網嚢切除の省略、大網温存などのオプションを含む手術をいう。腫瘍の深達度・組織型・長径により、第2群のリンパ節郭清の範囲が異なる縮小手術Aと縮小手術Bに分類される。早期胃癌であってもリンパ節転移を伴う症例(N1で21cm以上もしくはN2)では定型手術(後述)の適応とされている。

現在,多くの施設で積極的に導入されている腹腔鏡下手術は,2002年度の保険診療報酬に収載され,有望な低侵襲手術法として期待されている.現在,わが国において年間5.000件以上の腹腔鏡下手術が実施されている.手術手技の標準化も進められてはいるものの,いまだ至適な郭清範囲や郭清方法は確立されておらず,開腹手術に対比してその有用性が検証されているとはいいがたい.現在,開腹手術と腹腔鏡下手術の比較試験が実施されており,その結果によっては標準治療の一つとして推奨される可能性がある.現時点ではあくまでも臨床研究として位置づけられており,十分な経験を積んだ専門医(日本内視鏡外科学会の技術認定医など)のいる施設においてのみ実施されるべきであると思われる.

2 進行胃癌

深達度がT2, T3でN0~2の症例に対しては, 定型手術が推奨されている. 定型手術とは, 胃の 2/3以上切除とD2(第2群までの)リンパ節郭清を 施行する術式である. 欧米ではリンパ節郭清に関 する比較試験で,進行胃癌においてもD1(第1群 のみ)郭清とD2郭清で差がなかったとする報告が あり, D1郭清が標準手術となっている. しかし, その治療成績はわが国と比較して術後合併症が多く、生存率も劣っている。わが国においてはD2 郭清が安全・確実に施行可能であり治療成績も優れていることから、D2郭清が標準治療として推奨されている。一方、わが国において実施されたD2郭清とD3郭清の比較試験(JCOG 9501)³¹ではD3郭清の有用性が証明されなかったため、ガイドライン速報版(http://www.jgca.jp/PDFfiles/sokuho080122.pdf)では、「根治可能な進行胃癌に対して予防的郭清としての大動脈周囲リンパ節郭清は行うべきではない」とされている。

以前は上部胃癌に対して確実にリンパ節郭清を実施する目的で、膵尾側+脾臓の合併切除が行われてきた、しかし、膵を温存しても十分にリンパ節郭清が可能な術式が開発されたため、現在、膵への直接浸潤や明らかなNo.11 (脾動脈幹) リンパ節転移を有する症例以外は膵尾側切除は行われない、一方、脾臓の合併切除の是非に関しては議論があり、現在、臨床試験が進行中であるが、現時点ではU領域にかかる進行胃癌ではNo.10 (脾門部) 郭清のため脾を合併切除することが望ましいものと思われる。

食道浸潤胃癌に対する術式に関しては、従来、 左開胸開腹アプローチが推奨されてきたが、手術 器具の進歩により開腹アプローチでも十分に食道 が切除可能である。臨床試験 (JCOG 9502) ⁴においても左開胸アプローチの優位性は証明されな かったことから、少なくとも食道浸潤長が3cm未 満の症例においては開胸すべきではないものと思 われる。

3 集学的治療

a. 術後補助化学療法

治癒切除後の微小遺残腫瘍による再発予防を目 的として、種々の化学療法の臨床試験が行われて きたが、これまでは術後補助化学療法により確実

な延命効果が証明されていなかったため、術後補 助化学療法は臨床試験においてのみ実施すべきで あるとされてきた. しかし、わが国で実施された Stage II, IIの胃癌根治切除例を対象として, 手術 単独群とS-1投与群(術後1年間TS-1投与)とを比 較した大規模な臨床試験(ACTS-GC)の結果によ り,有意な差をもってS-1投与群の生存期間延長 効果が証明された⁵⁾、この結果を受けて、ガイド ライン速報版では、「胃癌術後補助化学療法とし てのS-1投与は安全にして有効であり、Stage II, Ⅲ胃癌手術後の標準治療になると考えられた」と されている.

b. 術前化学療法

化学療法によってまず腫瘍縮小や微小転移の消 滅を図り、ついで遺残した原発巣や転移巣を切除 する集学的治療である. 奏効率・切除率で近接効 果を評価するが、生存率による延命効果が最終的 な評価基準となる. 欧州で実施された手術単独群 と術前・術後化学療法群を比較した第Ⅲ相試験 では、術前・術後化学療法群により生存期間の延 長効果が証明されたが、手術そのものの成績がわ が国とは著しく異なるため、わが国独自での検証 が必要である.

c. 放射線治療

アメリカにおいては, 術後放射線化学療法群と 手術単独群を比較する臨床試験(INT 0116/ SWOG9008) において、術後放射線化学療法群に おいて有意な生存期間の延長が得られたことか ら、術後放射線化学療法が進行胃癌の標準治療と 位置づけられている.しかし、手術そのものの質・ 成績が欧米とわが国では著しく異なり、わが国で は局所再発率がきわめて低率であることから、術 後放射線療法の意義は乏しいものと思われる. 術 前放射線療法の意義に関してはいまだ不明であり、 今後臨床試験として検討されるべき課題である.

4 切除不能進行・再発胃癌

切除不能進行・再発胃癌に対する化学療法は 最近著しい進歩が認められている. 以前は生存期 間の中央値 (median survival time: MST) はお およそ6~9ヵ月であり、国内外の臨床試験成績 からも特定のレジメンを推奨することはできない とされていた.

しかし、その後わが国で実施された2つの臨床 試験の結果が報告されている. 1つはJCOG9912 試験であり、5-FU持続静注を対照治療として、S-1 の非劣性,シスプラチン+イリノテカンの優越性 について検討された、MSTは5-FU:10.8月、S-1:11.4月、シスプラチン+イリノテカン: 12.3月であり、シスプラチン+イリノテカンの優越性 は証明されなかったが、S-1の非劣性は証明され た. この結果から, S-1が標準治療として推奨さ れると結論づけられた. もう1つの臨床試験はこ のS-1単剤を対照治療として、S-1+シスプラチン の優越性について検討され(SPIRITS試験), S-1 単剤のMST:11.0月に対してシスプラチン併用 群のMSTは13.0月であり、有意差をもって良好 であった6). この結果から、現時点では、年齢や 腎機能などに問題のない症例に対する一次治療と してはS-1 十シスプラチンが標準治療と位置づけ られている.

現在, 分子標的治療薬を含むさまざまなレジメ ンによる臨床試験が進められており、将来的には いくつかのレジメンが切除不能進行・再発胃癌に 対する標準治療として提示される可能性がある.

化学療法による有害事象としては, 好中球減 少, 血小板減少, 貧血, 食欲不振, 下痢などがあ げられる. 胃癌患者では貧血を有する症例が多い こと, 術後症例では摂食量が低下していたり, 下 痢を起こしやすいことなどに注意が必要である.

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Tailored laparoscopic resection for suspected gastric gastrointestinal stromal tumors

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Background. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the long-term outcomes of tailored laparoscopic resections for suspected gastric gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs) based on the tumor size, location, and growth morphology.

Methods. Between February 1994 and April 2009, 64 patients undergoing gastric resections of suspected gastric GISTs were identified in a prospectively collected database. Medical records were reviewed for patient demographics, perioperative outcomes, and follow-up.

Results. Forty-five patients underwent attempted laparoscopic resections, with 44 completed laparoscopically. Twenty-eight neoplasms were located in the upper third of the stomach (including 6 neoplasms at the esophagogastric junction), 9 in the middle third, and 8 in the lower third (including 4 prepyloric neoplasms). Laparoscopic approaches included 35 exogastric (3 single incision access) and 10 transgastric approaches. Median operating time was 100 min (range, 30–240), and blood loss was 5 ml (range, 1–80). Median tumor size and operative margin were 32 mm (range, 16–74) and 7 mm (range, 1–20), respectively. One patient was converted to an open, pylorus-preserving gastrectomy. One patient developed a complication. The histopathologic rish assessment classifications of 37 GISTs were 2 very low, 26 low, 7 intermediate, and 2 high risk. Although 1 patient developed a local recurrence after intragastric resection, all 45 patients were disease free at a median follow-up of 74 months (range, 1–181).

Conclusion. Although technically demanding, tailored laparoscopic resection based on tumor characteristics in most patients with suspected gastric GIST is safe and feasible and resultis in good both surgical and oncologic outcomes. (Surgery 2009;

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RECENT ADVANCES IN LAPAROSCOPIC SURGICAL SKILLS, newer techniques, and improved instruments have resulted in widespread acceptance of a minimally invasive approach for gastric gastrointestinal stromal tumors (GISTs). Because GISTs rarely involve lymph nodes and because they require resection with only a gross negative margin, ^{1,2} they are suitable for a laparoscopic approach ³⁻⁶; but, when the neoplasm is located near the esophagogastric junction (EGJ) or pylorus, it is difficult to avoid a gastrectomy due to the risk of causing deformity or stenosis of the gastric lumen.

In our institution, a laparoscopic, stapled, wedge resection for gastric GIST has been

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performed since 1994, and the use of laparoscopic surgery has since been extended to include lesions located almost anywhere in the stomach. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the long-term outcomes of tailored laparoscopic resections for suspected gastric GISTs based on tumor size, location, and growth morphology.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Patients. Between February 1994 and April 2009, 64 consecutive patients undergoing gastric resections of suspected gastric GISTs were identified in a prospectively collected database at Iwate Medical University Hospital. Resections included 45 laparoscopic resections (70%) and 19 open resections. Of 19 patients who underwent open surgery, 12 patients had a tumor size of 5 cm or more. The remaining 7 patients with a tumor size < 5 cm had a mixed-type GIST with involvement of the cardia or pylorus, for which laparoscopic surgery appeared to be too complicated. Therefore, proximal gastrectomy, local

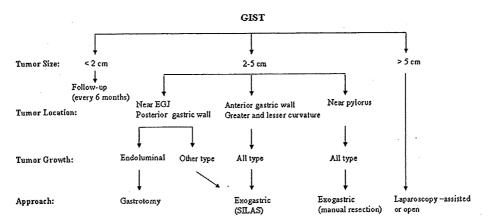


Figure. Therapeutic strategy for suspected gastric GISTs.

gastrectomy, and distal gastrectomy were selected for 4, 2, and 1 patients, respectively.

Indications for laparoscopic management of gastric GISTs are: a tumor size between 2 to 5 cm, rapid increase in tumor size since any previous investigation, or presence of symptoms. Tumors greater than 5 cm are operated by laparoscopy-assisted gastrectomy or open gastrectomy under observation of intra-operative laparoscopy, GISTs less than 2 cm in diameter are followed up by endoscopy/computed tomography (CT) every 6 months. For patients with rapid growth of the neoplasm, which is highly suspicious for malignant potential, we recommend surgical resection of the tumor. When the diagnosis is GIST regardless of the tumor size, it is considered to be relative operative indication. Our treatment algorithm for suspected gastric GISTs is shown in the

Variables analyzed included operating time, blood loss, tumor size, surgical margin, time to regular diet resumption, duration of hospitalization, morbidity, mortality, and survival. Morbidity and mortality were defined as those occurring within 1 month of surgery. Continuous data were expressed as medians (range).

Pre- and postoperative evaluation. Upper gastrointestinal series, endoscopy, and CT were performed pre-operatively in all patients. Endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS) and EUS-guided fine-needle aspiration biopsy examination (EUS-FNAB) were performed when necessary. We believe that these are reasonable pre-operative examinations, because definitive histologic diagnosis using EUS-FNAB is a strong reason for operation, and EUS gives more precise information of tumor location in vertical axis. Lesions in which the immunohistochemical staging was positive for c-kit gene

product/CD117 antigen were diagnosed as a GIST. 8.9 The prognostic indicators of GISTs were based on tumor size and mitotic index, according to the risk assessment classification proposed by Fletcher et al. 10 Gastric GISTs were categorized for malignant potential as very low risk (<2 cm and <5 mitoses/50 high-power fields, HPFs), low risk (2–5 cm and <5 mitoses/50 HPFs), intermediate risk (<5 cm and 6–10 mitoses/50 HPFs or 5–10 cm and <5 mitoses/50 HPFs), and high risk (>5 cm and >5 mitoses/50 HPFs, >10 cm and any mitotic rate, any size, or >10 mitoses/50 HPFs).

Surgical technique. Laparoscopic and intra-operative endoscopic assistances were used for all lesions, and the surgical procedures were selected according to tumor size, location, and growth morphology. Operative technique involved placement of 2–4 laparoscopic trocars.

Anterior gastric wall, greater and lesser curvature lesions. Exogastric wedge resection using an endoscopic linear stapler was performed on most lesions. The greater omentum, lesser omentum, or gastric vessels were divided as needed, using an ultrasonic coagulating shears. For GISTs located along the lesser curvature, we mobilize the neuro-vascular on the side of the stomach according to the surgical technique used in selective vagotomy, in an attempt to avoid problems with postoperative gastric motility. Ultrasonic coagulating shears are used to minimize the resection area, except for the exoluminal type.

Recently, single incision laparoscopic access surgery (SILAS) was planned for patients with tumors located on the anterior gastric wall or greater curvature. Neither SILS™ port nor ASC Triport™ were used, because no SILAS instruments have yet been approved under the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law in Japan.^{11,12} A 2-cm

semicircular umbilical incision was made at the lower half of the umbilicus, which was dilated using a 12-mm VersaStepTM (Covidien, Mansfield, MA). Under direct visualization, 1 or 2 5-mm VersaStepTM trocars were placed through the same umbilical skin incision. The tumor located in the anterior wall or greater curvature was resected using an endoscopic linear stapler after the tumor was elevated with a mini loop retractorTM (Covidien) or laparoscopic grasper retraction of the gastric wall near the tumor. Three trocar sites were joined and closed to avoid incisional hernia.

Posterior gastric wall lesions. Exoluminal and intraluminal small lesions were approached commonly via the lesser sac through the gastrocolic ligament. The greater curvature was elevated and rotated cephalad to expose the posterior surface of the stomach. The lesion was then resected with a technique similar to that described for anterior lesions. Large endoluminal neoplasms and those near the EGJ were resected via an anterior gastrotomy. For tumor resections using a gastrotomy with an endoscopic linear stapler, a full-thickness gastric resection was performed. The anterior gastrotomy was closed using an endoscopic linear stapler.

Near the EGJ and pyloric lesions. An intragastric approach using 2 balloon-tipped trocars under gastroscopy guidance was chosen for the first 6 wedge resections for small endoluminal GISTs. 14 For transgastric tumor resections using an ultrasonic coagulating shears, resection of the muscular layer rather than submucosal resection was performed. The mucosal-muscular defect was usually closed with intragastric sutures.

Exoluminal, intraluminal, or mixed growth tumors were resected with a margin of normal stomach using an ultrasonic coagulating shears via a laparoscopic exogastric approach. The resected defect was closed with a running suture.

RESULTS

Patient characteristics. The median age at presentation was 65 years (range, 35–84). There were 17 men and 28 women. Thirty-six patients (80%) were asymptomatic with the tumors found incidentally. Symptoms in the other patients included abdominal pain (4 patients), discomfort (4), and gastric bleeding (1). No metastatic disease at initial visit was observed. No patients required pre-operative treatment with tyrosine kinase inhibitor (imatinib). Twenty-eight (62%) of 45 GISTs were located in the upper third of the stomach (including 6 EGJ GISTs), 9 in the middle third, and 8 in the lower third (including 4 prepyloric GISTs).

Table. Comparison of outcomes based on surgical approach

Variable	Exogastric approach (n = 35)	Transgastric approach (n = 10)
Tumor size (mm)*	30 (16-74)	37 (22–50)
Operating time (min)*	73 (30–150)	145 (100-240)
Blood loss (ml)*	3 (1-80)	10 (3-65)
Surgical margin (mm)*	10 (2-20)	5 (1–15)
Oral intake (days)*	2 (1-5)	3.5 (2-7)
Hospitalization (days)*	7 (5–14)	8 (5-9)
Conversion	1	0
Morbidity	0	1
Local recurrence	0	1

^{*}Values are median (range).

Peri-operative outcomes. Laparoscopic gastric wedge resection was attempted in 45 patients and was successfully completed laparoscopically in 44 (98%). One patient was converted to an open, pylorus-preserving gastrectomy because of difficulty in gastric wedge resection and the risk of stricture. Laparoscopic approaches included 35 exogastric and 10 transgastric approaches (6 intragastric and 4 anterior transgastrotomy). In addition, 1 patient underwent simultaneous laparoscopic cholecystectomy and inguinal hernioplasty.

Median operating time was 100 min (range, 30-240) with a median blood loss of 5 ml (range, 1-80). Median tumor size and surgical margin were 32 mm (range, 16-74) and 7 mm (range, 1-20), respectively. No tumor ruptures occurred. A comparison of surgical outcomes for patients with exogastric resections and those with transgastric resections is shown in the Table. Median operating time (145 vs 73 min) and time to regular diet resumption (3.5 vs 2 days) were longer in patients with transgastric resections. Postoperative morbidity occurred in 1 patient with an endoluminal GIST located near the EGJ, who developed a leak at the suture line after intragastric resection using a vessel sealing system device. No mortalities occurred in our series. Three patients with submucosal GISTs underwent single incision laparoscopic gastric wedge resection. No patients required extra-umbilical incisions or conversion to a conventional laparoscopic procedure.

Thirty-seven patients (82%) had confirmed gastric GIST according to the final pathologic evaluation. The other tumors consisted of 5 gastrointestinal non-GIST mesenchymal neoplasms (2 neural types and 3 smooth muscle types), 1 granular cell neoplasm, 1 ectopic pancreas, and 1 carcinoid neoplasm. Using the stratification system of Fletcher et al, the