ASO Author Reflections: Lymphovascular Invasion has a Similar Prognostic Value as Lymph Node Involvement in Patients with Early Gastric Cancer

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PAST

Lymphovascular invasion (LVI) was known as a poor prognosticator for gastric cancer patients without lymph node (LN) involvement; however, there was no consensus as to whether LVI affects long-term survival in patients with early gastric cancer regardless of lymph node (LN) involvement.¹ In addition, previous studies have demonstrated the prognostic values of LVI in relation to early gastric cancer in a small number of patients.²

PRESENT

We evaluated the prognostic significance of LVI on recurrence and long-term survival in early gastric cancer patients who underwent gastrectomy, by comparing the groups after stratifying by LVI and LN status. The study demonstrated that early gastric cancer patients with LVI had a poor prognosis even without LN involvement, similar to early gastric cancer with LN involvement.³ Moreover, patients with LVI showed a high recurrence rate and hematogenous metastases as the most common pattern of recurrence.

FUTURE

Among early gastric cancer patients, LVI should be used to identify those patients with a high risk of recurrence and a poor prognosis. Because this specific group of early gastric cancer patients with LVI had a poor prognosis, they require intensive follow-up. Based on the above findings, LVI status should be informed to early gastric cancer patients for a more accurate prognosis.

DISCLOSURE Woo Jin Hyung reports receiving research Grants from Medtronic and GC Pharma. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Hutom and holds stocks in the company. He has also provided consultancy services to Ethicon and Verb Surgical outside the submitted work, and has received lecture fees from Stryker. Seohee Choi reports no conflicts of interest.

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