

### Randomized Prospective Trial of Drain Use after Gastric Resections for Gastric Cancer Patients

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**Purpose:** Drainage of the peritoneal cavity after abdominal surgery has been routinely practiced, although few data exist to scientifically support the efficacy of such an approach. In gastric cancer surgery, drainage is regarded as an essential procedure to keep the peritoneal cavity clear after extended lymphadenectomy and, also, to facilitate early detection of hemorrhage, and anastomotic or duodenal stump leakage. In this context, we planned a randomized prospective trial of drainage use after gastrectomy with extended lymphadenectomy.

**Methods:** Between February and July 2001, 170 patients who underwent gastrectomy with extended lymphadenectomy were randomly allocated to either a non-drainage (n=84) or drainage group (n=86). The primary outcome measure was the complication rate. Additional outcome measures were operation time, requirements of rescue analgesics, changes in the level of serum albumin and hemoglobin, and hospital stay.

**Results:** Demographic details, preoperative physical status, and pathologic features were not different between the two groups. Incidences of total gastrectomy and splenectomy among total gastrectomies were similar in both groups. However, operation time was shorter in the non-drainage group than in the drainage group (P=0.022). There were no differences in surgical outcome, including changes in hemoglobin and albumin levels, requirement for rescue analgesics, time to flatus or soft diet, and length of hospital stay. Complication rates were not different between the two groups

(P=0.691), nor in the patterns of complication in either group. There was no operative mortality or reoperation.

**Conclusion:** Based on these results, routine abdominal drainage should not be mandatory or even standard after gastrectomy with extended lymphadenectomy for gastric cancer. (J Korean Surg Soc 2002;63:123-128)

**Key Words:** Gastric cancer, Randomized prospective trial, Drainage, Complication

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(1-4)  
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D2

(Two-armed closed suction drain, Sewoon Medical Co., Seoul, Korea)

Winslow

가 . 2001 2 2001 7

215 가 2

15 , 200 가 (100 ) 가 3 2

(100 ) 가

가 , , , 5 UICC TNM

가 가 (5 ), (13)

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(3 ) 14 가

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16 가 (Fig. 1).

170

D2

ASA (American Society of Anesthesiologists, general classification of physical status) (14)

Class I , Class II

80 , Class III

Class IV

, Class V 24

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(12)

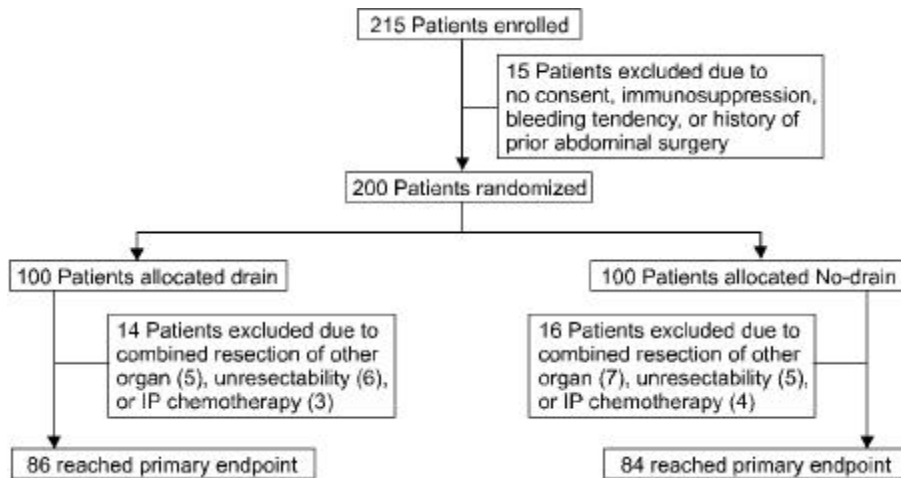


Fig. 1. Trial profile, IP: intraperitoneal.

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SPSS 10.0  
P 0.05  
Chi-square test  
Student t-test

**Table 1.** Comparative data on patients characteristics

Patients characteristics	Drain (n=86)	No-drain (n=84)	P value
Age* (years)	57.5±8.5	55.1±11.6	0.131
Sex			0.445
Female	25 (29.1)	29 (34.5)	
Male	61 (70.9)	55 (65.5)	
ASA classification			0.518
I	53 (61.9)	57 (67.9)	
II	32 (37.2)	25 (29.8)	
III	1 (1.2)	2 (2.4)	

\*Values are mean±standard deviation. ASA = american society of anesthesiologists.

**Table 2.** Comparative data on pathologic features

Pathologic features	Drain (n=86)	No-drain (n=84)	P value
Location			0.700
Lower	37 (43.0)	31 (36.9)	
Middle	37 (43.0)	39 (46.4)	
Upper	12 (14.0)	14 (16.7)	
Tumor size	4.1±3.2	3.3±2.4	0.071
Depth of invasion*			0.192
T1	36 (41.9)	42 (50.0)	
T2	13 (15.1)	17 (20.2)	
T3	37 (43.0)	24 (28.6)	
T4	0 (0.0)	1 (1.2)	
Nodal status			0.355
0	49 (57.0)	54 (64.3)	
1-6	18 (20.9)	20 (23.9)	
7-15	14 (16.3)	8 (9.5)	
16	5 (5.8)	2 (2.4)	
Stage*			0.205
I	41 (47.7)	52 (61.9)	
II	17 (19.8)	10 (11.9)	
III	23 (26.7)	20 (23.8)	
IV	5 (5.8)	2 (2.4)	

\*Based 5th UICC (International Union Against Cancer) classification.

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가 (Table 1).  
ASA

(Table 2).

898.8 ml (77-3574 ml)  
5.4 (3-10)  
149  
(P=0.022).  
55 (64.0%)  
63 (75%)  
(P=0.118).  
가  
가  
가  
2.7  
1.7  
(P=0.071).  
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**Table 3.** Comparative data on operation and operative outcomes

Pathologic features	Drain (n=86)	No-drain (n=84)	P value
Operation time (min)	149±27	139±30	0.022
Types of surgery			0.118
Subtotal gastrectomy	55 (64.0)	63 (75.0)	
Total gastrectomy	31 (36.0)	21 (25.0)	
Spleen*			0.509
Spleen preserved	21 (67.7)	16 (76.2)	
Splenectomy	10 (33.3)	5 (23.8)	
Hemoglobin (g/dL) change			0.356
Admission	12.6±1.8	12.8±1.8	
POD #1	12.0±1.7	12.2±1.6	
POD #3	11.9±1.6	11.8±1.4	
Albumin change			0.133
Admission	4.0±0.4	3.9±0.4	
POD #6	3.5±0.4	3.3±0.3	
Analgesics use (times)	1.7±3.1	2.7±3.6	0.071
Flatus (POD)	4.1±0.9	3.9±1.0	0.171
Soft diet (POD)	5.5±1.5	5.2±1.6	0.226
Hospital stay	9.4±3.9	9.2±3.9	0.702

\*Subtotal gastrectomy cases were excluded from the analysis. POD = postoperative days.

Table 4. Comparative data on complications

Pathologic features	Drain (n=86)	No-drain (n=84)	P value
Absent	74 (86.0)	74 (88.1)	0.691
Present*	12 (14.0)	10 (11.9)	
Atelectasis	3 (3.5)	2 (2.4)	
Pneumonia	3 (3.5)	3 (3.6)	
Wound infection	2 (2.3)	1 (1.2)	
Intra-abd. abscess	1 (1.2)	2 (2.4)	
Other	5 (5.8)	3 (3.6)	

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(15,16)

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4.1 ,

3.9 가

5.5 ,

5.2 가

(8,17)

9.4 ,

9.2

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가 (Table 3).

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12 (14.0%)

10 (9.5%)

900 ml

가 (P=0.691).

3,574 ml

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1

2

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Pigtail

1

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(7-11)

가 ,

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가

(18)

(1-4)

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Dutch trial(19) MRC trial(20)

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(21-25)

(5,6)

CT

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(26)

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