

# Letter to the Editors

## Establishing a multi-institutional registry to compare the outcomes of robotic, laparoscopic, and open surgery for gastric cancer

To the Editors:

Gastric cancer constitutes a major health problem around the world and is rampant in many countries.<sup>1</sup> Minimally invasive surgery, including traditional laparoscopy and robotic surgery, is generally accepted as an alternative to open approach in the treatment of early gastric cancer. For advanced gastric cancer, the reliability of this approach depends largely on the proper execution of D2 lymph node dissection,<sup>2</sup> and there is a lack of solid evidence regarding both short-term clinical and long-term oncologic outcomes.<sup>3</sup> Robotic technology might overcome the difficulties of traditional laparoscopy, but its effectiveness has not been verified by the few reports of adequate quality.<sup>4-8</sup>

To overcome the limitations of prior studies, our institutions are proposing a shared registry to develop and maintain an ongoing and comprehensive database comprising clinical, surgical, and oncologic outcomes of patients undergoing surgery for gastric cancer with robotic, laparoscopic, or open approaches. A system of on-line submission and sharing of patient data through a dedicated and protected website has been designed to:

- Compare robotic and laparoscopic surgery with the open approach;
- Compare the effect of location and stage of the tumor on the oncologic effectiveness of minimally invasive approaches;
- Compare the recovery of gastrointestinal function in the 3 treatment arms;
- Compare the incidence, types, and severity of postoperative complications in the 3 treatment arms; and
- Investigate whether minimally invasive approaches ensure the same overall and disease-free survival.

The study will open in February 2015 at the original 18 sites in 10 countries. Other centers are invited to join the study. Interested investigators may contact by email Dr Jacopo Desiderio at [djdesi85@hotmail.it](mailto:djdesi85@hotmail.it) and Dr Amilcare Parisi at [amilcareparisi@virgilio.it](mailto:amilcareparisi@virgilio.it).

## SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary data related to this article can be found online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.surg.2014.12.007>.

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*A listing of the organizing group and co-authors and institutions may be found in the on-line Appendix.*

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