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Role of gastric cancer screening system on the treatment outcome of gastric GIST in Japan from the analysis of the GIST registry

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Objective: Gastric cancer screening system may help to improve the outcome of gastric GIST.

Method: GIST cases treated between Jan. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2007 were registered from 40 institutes in Japan following the registration program conducted by Kinki GIST Study Group. Data on patient back grounds, treatments, pathological characteristics, recurrence and prognosis were collected and analyzed. Total 737 GIST cases were collected and 392 cases were gastric GISTs.

Results: The median age, size and mitotic count of gastric GISTs were 65 (18-92), 4cm (0.5-25) and 3/50HPF (0-155), respectively. 137 cases had symptoms, while 147 cases were incidentally found during gastric cancer screening. The median size of asymptomatic cases was significantly smaller than that of symptomatic cases (3.5 vs. 5.3 cm) and cases with mitotic count more than 5 were significantly fewer in asymptomatic cases (26.3 vs. 40.6%). % of high risk patients according to mFletcher classification in asymptomatic cases was significantly lower (21.7 vs. 44.1%) than that in symptomatic cases with significantly better 5 year RFS rate (92.1 vs. 76.9%). More patients received laparoscopic surgery in asymptomatic cases (42.2 vs. 27.2%).

Conclusion: Gastric cancer screening system is contributing to improve the outcome of gastric GIST.