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## Nodal Staging by Number of Metastatic Lymph Node and Comparison with Nodal Staging of 5th UICC TNM Classification in Gastric Cancer

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**Purpose:** The nodal staging of the 5th edition of the Union Internationale Contra la Cancer (UICC) TNM classification in 1997 was changed based on the number of metastatic lymph nodes. We attempted to classify nodal status according to the number of involved lymph nodes and compare with the nodal staging of the 5th UICC TNM classification in order to evaluate the rationality of the new nodal staging system.

**Methods:** The authors retrospectively analyzed 427 patients with gastric cancer who underwent curative resection from 1993 to 1996 at the Department of Surgery, Korea University College of Medicine. Cumulative survival rates were calculated by the Kaplan-Meier method. The difference between each nodal status was evaluated by the log rank test and the generalized Wilcoxon test.

**Results:** There were statistical differences between 0 and 1 lymph node involved, between 7 and 8, and between 15 and 16. We classified the nodal status into 4 groups according to the number of involved lymph nodes based on the following: group 1 with no lymph node involved, group 2 with 1 7, group 3 with 8 15 and group 4 with more than 15. There was a significant survival difference among the 4 groups with no survival difference between the number of positive lymph nodes in each group. We compare our results with the nodal staging of the UICC TNM classification and found that there were differences between group 2 (1 7 positive lymph nodes) and pN1 of TNM (1 6 positive lymph nodes) and between group 3 (8 15) and

 pN2 (7 15).

Conclusion: We were able to classify nodal status into 4 groups according to the number of involved lymph nodes. There was little difference compared with the new nodal staging of the 5th UICC TNM classification, which suggested that the nodal classification of the UICC TNM classification based on the number of metastatic lymph nodes is acceptable. Further analysis of a larger sample size may be necessary. (J Korean Surg Soc 2002;63:206-213)

Key Words: Gastric cancer, Nodal staging, UICC TNM classification

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pN0 (0 ), pN1 (1 6 ), pN2 (7 15 ), pN3 (16 )
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1) 1993 3 1996 12 585 6, 83 427 2) 가 SAS (Statistical Analysis System) (SAS Release 6.12, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA) 2000 8 31 가 427 5.3 90.3 47.0 (  $\pm 23.9$  ) 273 , 110 , 44 89.7% Kalplan-Meier Log-Rank Generalized Wil-P < 0.05 coson 가 Bonfernii 5% 가 가

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**Table 1.** Case characteristics (n=427)

Table 1. Case characteristics (n=427)			
Gender			
Male	276 (64.7%)		
Female	151 (35.3%)		
Age(years)			
Mean	$55.6 \pm 11.4$		
Range	21 82		
Tumor location			
Upper third	38 (8.9%)		
Middle third	150 (35.1%)		
Lower third	239 (56%)		
Depth of invasion			
Tis	1 (0.2%)		
T1	150 (35.2%)		
T2	102 (23.9%)		
T3	167 (39.1%)		
T4	7 (1.6%)		
Number of dissected nodes			
Mean	$32.7 \pm 14.0$		
Range	7 104		
Lymph node involvement			
Node negative	203 (47.5%)		
Node positive	224 (52.5%)		
Number of involved nodes			
Mean	$6.9 \pm 6.5$		
Range	1 32		
Histologic type			
Well differentiated	47 (11.0%)		
Moderately differentiated	191 (44.7%)		
Poorly differentiated	127 (29.7%)		
Signet ring cell	54 (12.6%)		
Mucinous	8 (1.9%)		
UICC TNM Stage (4th ed. 1987)			
0	1 (0.2%)		
IA	17 (29.7%)		
IB	65 (15.2%)		
П	75 (17.6%)		
IIIA	83 (19.4%)		
IIIB	65 (15.2%)		
IV	11 (2.6%)		
Type of resection			
Subtotal	321 (75.2%)		
Total	106 (24.8%)		

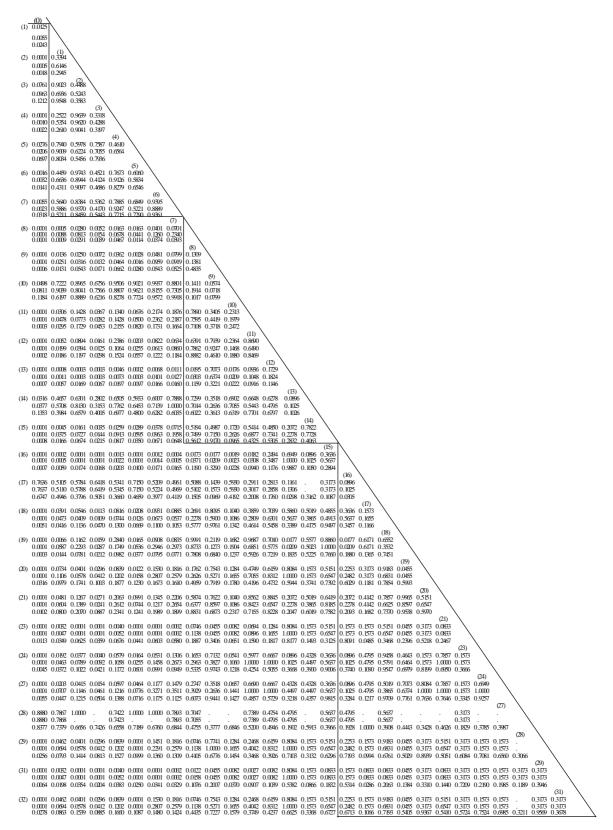


Fig. 1. Analysis of survival difference between nodal status according to number of positive lymph node by pairwise comparing.

**Table 2.** Group resulting from analysis (n=427)

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Group	No. of positive lymph Node	No. of case (%)
1	0	203 (47.5%)
2	1 7	150 (35.2%)
3	8 15	49 (11.4%)
4	16	25 (5.9%)

# 2 Log-Rank 0.8894, Wilcoxon 0.9700 3 Log-Rank 0.1626, Wilcoxon 0.2259 7 Log-Rank 11 Wilcoxon 0.0001 7 Log-Rank

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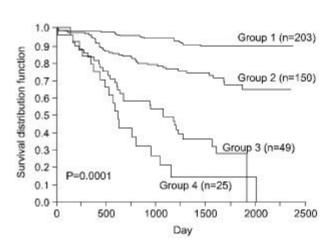
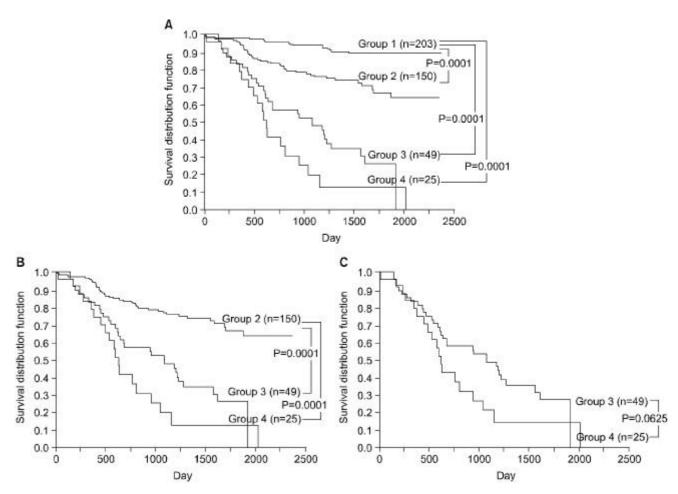


Fig. 2. Survival curves according to group.

**Table 3.** Comparison with nodal staging of 5th UICC TNM classification

	Study 5th UICC TNM		ICC TNM
Group	No. of positive lymph node	Nodal staging	No. of positive lymph node
Group 1	0	N0	0
Group 2	1 7	N1	1 6
Group 3	8 15	N2	7 15
Group 4	16	N3	16



**Fig. 3.** Survival differences between each group. (A) There is a significant differences between group 1 and group 2, 3 and 4. (B) There is a significant differences between group 2 and group 3 and 4. (C) There is a significant differences between group 3 and group 4.

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0 15 16 2 1 7 3 15 4 16 4 **UICC TNM** 5 pN1 ( 6 ) 2 3 pN2 (7 15 가 가

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