Additional Gastrectomy after Non-Curative Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection for Early Gastric Cancer

Yeon Soo Chang, M.D., Ph.D.
Department of Surgery, Eulji Medical Center, Eulji University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

Corresponding author
Yeon Soo Chang
Department of Surgery, Eulji Medical Center, Eulji University College of Medicine, 68, Hangeulbiseok-ro, Nowon-gu, Seoul 01830, Korea
Tel: +82-2-970-8688, Fax: +82-2-970-8227, E-mail: cutdown@eulji.ac.kr


Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) is widely accepted as one of the treatment options for early gastric cancer (EGC) with negligible risk of lymph node metastasis by improvement in techniques and endoscopic devices. In addition, oncologic outcomes of ESD for EGC have been proved comparable with standard gastrectomy.1-4 According to Japanese Gastric Cancer Treatment Guidelines,5 ESD is recommended only for patients who meet the criteria (absolute and expanded) due to risk of residual cancer and lymph node metastasis. Curative ESD is defined as: En-bloc resection, negative lateral and vertical resection margin, no lymphovascular invasion and (a) tumor size >2 cm, differentiated, pT1a without ulcer or (b) tumor size ≤3 cm, differentiated, pT1a with ulcer or (c) tumor size ≤2 cm, undifferentiated, pT1a with ulcer or (d) tumor size ≤3 cm, histologically of differentiated, pT1b (SM1, <500 micron from the muscularis mucosae) by pathologic findings. Resection that does not satisfy any of the above criteria is considered non-curative.5

As all we know, laparoscopic gastrectomy has become standard treatment for early gastric cancer. Laparoscopic gastrectomy with adequate lymph node dissection can be safely applied for patients with non-curative ESD regarding postoperative complications and oncologic outcomes.14,16
Authors compared the early postoperative outcomes according to the interval between ESD and additional gastrectomy. No established principal exists regarding ideal timing of surgery after ESD. We can refer to the result of one study which reported that about 1 month after ESD might be optimal for better surgical results without affecting the oncological outcomes.13

Finally, it is important to select the patients with non-curative ESD for additional gastrectomy according to the risk of residual cancer and lymph node metastasis. Also, the surgeon have to keep in mind that scar and surrounding fibrosis of previous ESD can worsen the postoperative outcome and to secure sufficient safety margin from the lesion.

REFERENCES