Table 1: Clinical and pathological features of patients with and without lymph node metastasis

Characteristic	Total	Lymph node metastasis			Lymph node metastasis			Lymph node metastasis			Lymph node metastasis		
		No	Yes	p-value	No	Yes	p-value	No	Yes	p-value	No	Yes	p-value
Age, years													
Mean ± SD	58.4 ± 12.7	55.2 ± 11.8	63.1 ± 13.2	<0.001	55.2 ± 11.8	63.1 ± 13.2	<0.001	55.2 ± 11.8	63.1 ± 13.2	<0.001	55.2 ± 11.8	63.1 ± 13.2	<0.001
Median (IQR)	59 (49–68)	56 (47–64)	66 (55–72)		56 (47–64)	66 (55–72)		56 (47–64)	66 (55–72)		56 (47–64)	66 (55–72)	
Sex, n (%)													
Male	214 (58.6)	118 (55.1)	96 (64.4)	0.06	118 (55.1)	96 (64.4)	0.06	118 (55.1)	96 (64.4)	0.06	118 (55.1)	96 (64.4)	0.06
Female	151 (41.4)	96 (44.9)	53 (35.6)		96 (44.9)	53 (35.6)		96 (44.9)	53 (35.6)		96 (44.9)	53 (35.6)	
Tumor location, n (%)													
Upper third	72 (19.7)	58 (27.1)	14 (9.4)	<0.001	58 (27.1)	14 (9.4)	<0.001	58 (27.1)	14 (9.4)	<0.001	58 (27.1)	14 (9.4)	<0.001
Middle third	168 (46.0)	102 (47.7)	66 (44.3)		102 (47.7)	66 (44.3)		102 (47.7)	66 (44.3)		102 (47.7)	66 (44.3)	
Lower third	125 (34.2)	54 (25.2)	71 (47.7)		54 (25.2)	71 (47.7)		54 (25.2)	71 (47.7)		54 (25.2)	71 (47.7)	
Tumor size, cm													
Mean ± SD	4.8 ± 2.1	4.1 ± 1.9	5.8 ± 2.2	<0.001	4.1 ± 1.9	5.8 ± 2.2	<0.001	4.1 ± 1.9	5.8 ± 2.2	<0.001	4.1 ± 1.9	5.8 ± 2.2	<0.001
Median (IQR)	4.5 (3.2–6.0)	3.8 (2.8–5.2)	5.5 (4.0–7.2)		3.8 (2.8–5.2)	5.5 (4.0–7.2)		3.8 (2.8–5.2)	5.5 (4.0–7.2)		3.8 (2.8–5.2)	5.5 (4.0–7.2)	
Histological grade, n (%)													
Well differentiated	58 (15.9)	49 (22.9)	9 (6.0)	<0.001	49 (22.9)	9 (6.0)	<0.001	49 (22.9)	9 (6.0)	<0.001	49 (22.9)	9 (6.0)	<0.001
Moderately differentiated	201 (55.1)	121 (56.5)	80 (53.7)		121 (56.5)	80 (53.7)		121 (56.5)	80 (53.7)		121 (56.5)	80 (53.7)	
Poorly differentiated	106 (29.0)	44 (20.6)	62 (41.3)		44 (20.6)	62 (41.3)		44 (20.6)	62 (41.3)		44 (20.6)	62 (41.3)	
Lymphovascular invasion, n (%)													
Absent	198 (54.2)	142 (66.4)	56 (37.6)	<0.001	142 (66.4)	56 (37.6)	<0.001	142 (66.4)	56 (37.6)	<0.001	142 (66.4)	56 (37.6)	<0.001
Present	167 (45.8)	72 (33.6)	93 (62.4)		72 (33.6)	93 (62.4)		72 (33.6)	93 (62.4)		72 (33.6)	93 (62.4)	
Perineural invasion, n (%)													
Absent	241 (66.0)	168 (78.5)	73 (49.0)	<0.001	168 (78.5)	73 (49.0)	<0.001	168 (78.5)	73 (49.0)	<0.001	168 (78.5)	73 (49.0)	<0.001
Present	124 (34.0)	46 (21.5)	76 (51.0)		46 (21.5)	76 (51.0)		46 (21.5)	76 (51.0)		46 (21.5)	76 (51.0)	
Tumor perforation, n (%)													
No	312 (85.5)	196 (91.6)	116 (77.9)	<0.001	196 (91.6)	116 (77.9)	<0.001	196 (91.6)	116 (77.9)	<0.001	196 (91.6)	116 (77.9)	<0.001
Yes	53 (14.5)	18 (8.4)	33 (22.1)		18 (8.4)	33 (22.1)		18 (8.4)	33 (22.1)		18 (8.4)	33 (22.1)	
Preoperative CEA, ng/mL													
Mean ± SD	6.2 ± 4.8	4.9 ± 3.6	8.1 ± 5.9	<0.001	4.9 ± 3.6	8.1 ± 5.9	<0.001	4.9 ± 3.6	8.1 ± 5.9	<0.001	4.9 ± 3.6	8.1 ± 5.9	<0.001
Median (IQR)	4.8 (2.9–7.6)	3.9 (2.5–6.1)	6.7 (4.1–10.2)		3.9 (2.5–6.1)	6.7 (4.1–10.2)		3.9 (2.5–6.1)	6.7 (4.1–10.2)		3.9 (2.5–6.1)	6.7 (4.1–10.2)	
Preoperative CA19-9, U/mL													
Mean ± SD	38.7 ± 41.2	24.6 ± 28.3	59.4 ± 49.7	<0.001	24.6 ± 28.3	59.4 ± 49.7	<0.001	24.6 ± 28.3	59.4 ± 49.7	<0.001	24.6 ± 28.3	59.4 ± 49.7	<0.001
Median (IQR)	27.5 (12.1–49.8)	16.8 (8.4–31.2)	46.3 (22.7–78.5)		16.8 (8.4–31.2)	46.3 (22.7–78.5)		16.8 (8.4–31.2)	46.3 (22.7–78.5)		16.8 (8.4–31.2)	46.3 (22.7–78.5)	
Adjuvant chemotherapy, n (%)													
Not received	142 (38.9)	104 (48.6)	38 (25.5)	<0.001	104 (48.6)	38 (25.5)	<0.001	104 (48.6)	38 (25.5)	<0.001	104 (48.6)	38 (25.5)	<0.001
Received	223 (61.1)	110 (51.4)	113 (74.5)		110 (51.4)	113 (74.5)		110 (51.4)	113 (74.5)		110 (51.4)	113 (74.5)	
Hospital stay, days													
Mean ± SD	9.8 ± 4.3	8.9 ± 3.8	11.2 ± 4.7	<0.001	8.9 ± 3.8	11.2 ± 4.7	<0.001	8.9 ± 3.8	11.2 ± 4.7	<0.001	8.9 ± 3.8	11.2 ± 4.7	<0.001
Median (IQR)	9 (7–11)	8 (7–10)	10 (8–13)		8 (7–10)	10 (8–13)		8 (7–10)	10 (8–13)		8 (7–10)	10 (8–13)	
Postoperative complications, n (%)													
None	287 (78.6)	184 (86.0)	103 (69.1)	<0.001	184 (86.0)	103 (69.1)	<0.001	184 (86.0)	103 (69.1)	<0.001	184 (86.0)	103 (69.1)	<0.001
Surgical site infection	41 (11.2)	17 (7.9)	24 (16.1)		17 (7.9)	24 (16.1)		17 (7.9)	24 (16.1)		17 (7.9)	24 (16.1)	
Anastomotic leak	19 (5.2)	8 (3.7)	11 (7.4)		8 (3.7)	11 (7.4)		8 (3.7)	11 (7.4)		8 (3.7)	11 (7.4)	
Pneumonia	18 (4.9)	5 (2.3)	13 (8.7)		5 (2.3)	13 (8.7)		5 (2.3)	13 (8.7)		5 (2.3)	13 (8.7)	
Follow-up, months													
Mean ± SD	24.6 ± 14.3	26.8 ± 14.9	21.1 ± 12.8	0.002	26.8 ± 14.9	21.1 ± 12.8	0.002	26.8 ± 14.9	21.1 ± 12.8	0.002	26.8 ± 14.9	21.1 ± 12.8	0.002
Median (IQR)	23 (12–36)	26 (14–38)	18 (9–31)		26 (14–38)	18 (9–31)		26 (14–38)	18 (9–31)		26 (14–38)	18 (9–31)	
Recurrence, n (%)													
No	268 (73.4)	181 (84.6)	87 (58.4)	<0.001	181 (84.6)	87 (58.4)	<0.001	181 (84.6)	87 (58.4)	<0.001	181 (84.6)	87 (58.4)	<0.001
Yes	97 (26.6)	33 (15.4)	64 (41.6)		33 (15.4)	64 (41.6)		33 (15.4)	64 (41.6)		33 (15.4)	64 (41.6)	
Mortality, n (%)													
Alive	301 (82.5)	196 (91.6)	105 (70.5)	<0.001	196 (91.6)	105 (70.5)	<0.001	196 (91.6)	105 (70.5)	<0.001	196 (91.6)	105 (70.5)	<0.001
Deceased	64 (17.5)	18 (8.4)	46 (29.5)		18 (8.4)	46 (29.5)		18 (8.4)	46 (29.5)		18 (8.4)	46 (29.5)	