

Supplementary Table S1a. First alarming symptom in 77 symptomatic patients prior to detection of recurrence.

Symptom	Number (frequency)
Pain	38 (49.4%)
Weight loss/loss of appetite	31 (40.3%)
Reduced performance/asthenia	11 (14.3%)
Dysphagia/vomiting	10 (13.0%)
Dyspnoea	6 (7.8%)
Cerebral symptoms	5 (6.5%)
Dyspepsia	3 (3.9%)
Ascites	2 (2.6%)
Icterus	2 (2.6%)
Abnormal blood tests	2 (2.6%)
Bleeding/anaemia	2 (2.6%)
Ileus	2 (2.6%)
Other*	3 (3.9%)
Not specified	7 (9.1%)

Symptoms were not assessed in 3 patients.

*Other includes one each of cardiac arrhythmia, hoarseness, and palpable tumour.

A total of 44 patients (57.1%) had one symptom, 20 (26.0%) two symptoms, and 13 (16.9%) three alarming symptoms. Twelve patients were diagnosed incidentally.

Supplementary Table S1b. Workup at recurrence in 87 patients.

Investigation	Number (frequency)
CT	65 (74.7%)
Added PET	24 (27.6%)
Gastroscopy	14 (16.1%)
Ultrasound	9 (10.3%)
Surgery	6 (6.9%)
Pleuracentesis or ascites puncture	6 (6.9%)
MRI	4 (4.6%)
CTC or MRIC	3 (3.4%)
X-ray	1 (1.1%)
Other*	2 (2.3%)

Not assessed in 2 patients.

*Other includes one diagnosed at autopsy and one not specified.

45 (51.7%) had one investigation, 34 (39.1%) two investigations, and 8 (9.2%) three investigations at workup. 58 (66.7%) of recurrences were histologically or cytologically verified.

CTC, CT scan of cerebrum; CT, computer tomography; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; MRIC, magnetic resonance imaging of cerebrum; PET, positron-emission tomography.

Supplementary Table S2. 1st line palliative chemotherapy regimens.

	Number of patients
Platinum-based (62.2%)*	
Oxaliplatin + capecitabine/5FU	11
Oxaliplatin + epirubicin + capecitabine	10
Carboplatin + docetaxel + capecitabine	7
Oxaliplatin + docetaxel + capecitabine/S1	4
Carboplatin + paclitaxel	1
Irinotecan-based (24.5%)	
Irinotecan	6
Irinotecan + cetuximab	5
Irinotecan + 5FU/capecitabine	2
Taxane-based (13.2%)	
Paclitaxel	5
Paclitaxel + ramucirumab	1
Paclitaxel + capecitabine	1

*Added trastuzumab in 10 cases.

FU, fluorouracil.

Supplementary table S3. Results of univariate analysis according to progression-free and overall survival from date of treatment start in 52 patients receiving 1st line palliative chemotherapy after perioperative chemotherapy and radical surgery for gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma.

Variable ¹	Stratum	Number	Overall survival			Progression-free survival		
			HR	95%CI	P-value	HR	95%CI	P-value
Gender	Male	42	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-
	Female	10	0.86	(0.43-1.73)	0.68	0.95	(0.47-1.93)	0.89
Age [62 years]	Continuous	52	1.02	(0.99-1.04)	0.24	1.02	(0.99-1.05)	0.30
Primary site	Oesophagus/GEJ	45	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-
	Gastric	7	1.23	(0.55-2.76)	0.62	1.03	(0.46-2.32)	0.94
Time from end of perioperative CTx to start on palliative CTx [14.2 months]	Continuous	52	1.00	(0.98-1.02)	0.88	0.99	(0.97-1.01)	0.49
RD of perioperative platinum [83.3%]	Continuous	52	0.99	(0.98- 1.01)	0.51	1.00	(0.98-1.01)	0.68
ECOG PS (12)	0	12	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-
	1	23	1.56	(0.75-3.23)	0.23	1.33	(0.65-2.75)	0.44
	2-3	5	1.57	(0.53-4.69)	0.42	1.05	(0.33-3.35)	0.93
Weight loss >10% (12)	Yes	10	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-
	No	30	0.52	(0.24-1.12)	0.09	0.60	(0.29-1.25)	0.17
Site of recurrence	Liver vs other	12/40	0.74	(0.39-1.43)	0.37	0.67	(0.34-1.29)	0.23
	Distant lymph nodes vs other	25/27	0.76	(0.43-1.33)	0.34	0.92	(0.53-1.62)	0.78
	Pleuroperitoneum vs other	20/32	2.07	(1.13-3.82)	0.02	1.38	(0.78-2.45)	0.27
Number of sites of recurrence	1	21	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-
	2	21	1.02	(0.54-1.91)	0.95	0.88	(0.47-1.64)	0.68
	3-4	10	1.19	(0.55-2.60)	0.66	1.20	(0.55-2.59)	0.65
Type of 1 st line palliative CTx	Platinum-based	33	Ref.	-	-	Ref.	-	-
	Non-platinum-based	19	1.16	(0.65-2.08)	0.61	1.26	(0.70-2.25)	0.44

One patient treated with preoperative chemotherapy with curative intent for recurrence was excluded.

1) Median value in brackets, missing number in parentheses.

CI, confidence interval; CTx, chemotherapy; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; GEJ, gastroesophageal junctional; HR, hazard ratio; RD; relative dose of intended dose; Ref., reference value (=1.0).