Author Responses to Reviewers

Response to Reviewer 01:

We thank the reviewer for their constructive and relevant comments.

- The methodological approach has been clarified and added to the last paragraph of the Introduction.
- As the main objective of this editorial is not to compare or determine the diagnostic accuracy of different modalities in assessing the depth of invasion in gastric cancer, but rather to examine the real-world accuracy of endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)—which is widely considered in the literature and clinical guidelines as the preferred tool for this purpose—the focus of our work is to evaluate its accuracy in distinguishing between mucosal and submucosal invasion in early gastric cancer. To address the reviewer's comment, we have added a short paragraph discussing the role of each diagnostic modality in gastric cancer evaluation (highlighted in yellow).
- Regarding the epidemiological background and the importance of the disease, gastric cancer is reported as the fifth most common cancer worldwide. The significance of early gastric cancer was also highlighted, particularly in countries where biannual screening programs are implemented, which increase the detection rate of early gastric cancer to nearly 70%. This represents a substantial proportion of cases, making accurate assessment of the depth of invasion crucial. Overestimation or underestimation of invasion depth may significantly affect therapeutic decision-making. This point was initially clarified in the abstract. The focus of this editorial is early gastric cancer, which can benefit from two main therapeutic options: endoscopic dissection or surgical treatment; therefore, no other therapeutic modalities were discussed.

Response to Reviewer 02:

We thank the reviewer for their constructive and relevant comments.

- The methodological approach has been clarified and added to the last paragraph of the Introduction.
- The background section was enhanced as recommended by the reviewers. We added a clearer epidemiological context, explaining therapeutic options related to the depth of invasion, as well as the diagnostic challenges in gastric cancer.
- We added a broader overview of existing diagnostic options, as recommended by the reviewer, and explained their importance in gastric cancer diagnosis and the differences between these modalities