Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 114499

Title: Machine learning approaches to early detection of delayed wound healing following gastric cancer surgery

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 08036599
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree and professional title: Assistant Professor, PhD, Researcher
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Pakistan
Author's Country/Territory: Türkiye

Manuscript submission date: 2025-09-20

Reviewer chosen by: AI Editor

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-09-22 09:14

Reviewer performed review: 2025-09-22 13:26

Review time: 4 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? **Yes** Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? **No** Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? **Yes** Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? **Yes** Are the Key Words complete? **Yes**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

	Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes** Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete? **Yes** Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Yes** Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Yes** Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Yes** Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Not Applicable** Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Not Applicable** Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **Not Applicable** Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Not Applicable** Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes** Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes** Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes** Do authors omit important references? **No** Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes** Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No** Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes** Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers? **Yes**

Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

	Are additional experiments needed for the study? **Yes** Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Yes**
Scientific quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade A (Excellent)
Language quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	Yes
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Comments for Authors

Your study provides an important contribution to perioperative precision medicine by demonstrating how interpretable machine learning models, particularly decision trees, can be effectively applied to predict delayed wound healing after radical gastrectomy. The ability to leverage routinely available clinical and laboratory data for accurate risk

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

stratification is highly valuable for early intervention and improved patient outcomes. While limitations such as reliance on postoperative variables and single-center validation remain, the work sets a strong foundation for future multicenter studies and external validations. By combining transparency, clinical relevance, and robust performance, this research represents a promising step toward integrating AI-driven tools into surgical care to enhance recovery, reduce complications, and optimize resource utilization.

1. Why is delayed wound healing (DWH) an important complication after radical gastrectomy?
2. Which machine learning algorithm performed best in the study, and what was its AUC value?
3. What are the key clinical and laboratory parameters included in the model?
4. What clinical benefits arise from early detection of patients at high risk for DWH?
5. Why drainage duration is considered a limitation in terms of predictive usefulness?
6. What makes decision trees computationally efficient and suitable for clinical practice?
7. What are the limitations of validating the model only in a single center?
8. How can external validation and multicenter studies improve the robustness of ML models?
9. Before advocating for ML integration, is there evidence that this decision tree model performs significantly better than a simple logistic regression model using the same variables? Establishing that the added complexity of ML provides a substantial improvement is a key step in justifying its clinical adoption.
10. The conclusion mentions the integration of ML into care. What are the potential ethical and practical hurdles? For instance, how might algorithm bias affect care for underrepresented populations? What infrastructure would be needed to integrate

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

real-time risk scores into electronic health records? Briefly touching on these points would make the future directions section more comprehensive.

Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 114499

Title: Machine learning approaches to early detection of delayed wound healing following gastric cancer surgery

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 08768058
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree and professional title: Assistant Professor, MD, PhD
Reviewer's Country/Territory: China
Author's Country/Territory: Türkiye

Manuscript submission date: 2025-09-20

Reviewer chosen by: AI Editor

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-09-22 02:42

Reviewer performed review: 2025-09-23 01:10

Review time: 22 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? **Yes** Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? **No** Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? **Yes** Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? **Yes** Are the Key Words complete? **Yes**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

	Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes** Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete? **Not Applicable** Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Not Applicable** Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Not Applicable** Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Not Applicable** Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **Not Applicable** Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Not Applicable** Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes** Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes** Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes** Do authors omit important references? **Yes** Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes** Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No** Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes** Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers?

Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

	Yes Are additional experiments needed for the study? **No** Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Not Applicable**
Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Language quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	No
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This letter discusses machine learning (ML) for predicting delayed wound healing (DWH) after gastric cancer surgery. Before acceptance, revisions are recommended to improve the manuscript's overall quality:

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

Strengths

High relevance of the topic: DWH has major clinical significance in gastric cancer surgery. Combining ML with risk prediction represents a novel interdisciplinary area that is both timely and innovative.

Balanced critical reflection: The letter highlights model strengths (high AUC, interpretability) while also noting limitations such as reliance on postoperative variables, single-center validation, and data constraints, which is appropriate for a Letter.

Logical structure: Background → Key findings → Strengths → Limitations → Clinical and future perspectives, with clear organization.

Fluent academic language: Terminology is precise and expression is concise, suitable for a Letter format.

Areas for Improvement

Excessive length: The manuscript reads more like a mini-review. Redundant explanatory sections (e.g., basic description of decision trees, general ML advantages) should be deleted.

Clearer positioning: The introduction or abstract should explicitly state that this is a commentary or reflection on a published study, not a research article or full review. Suggested opening sentence:

"We read with great interest the recent study on ML-based risk prediction for delayed wound healing after gastrectomy, and wish to highlight both its promise and limitations."

Targeted referencing: Some references (e.g., [3] FATIMA, Sheraz, an education-oriented journal) are not sufficiently authoritative. Replace with references from leading medical journals or reviews. Consider citing recent predictive modeling studies from BMJ, Ann Surg, Gastric Cancer, or BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making.

Result presentation: The phrasing "excellent AUC of 0.951 and identified all cases" may

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

mislead readers into thinking these are the authors' own results. It should be revised to: "The study reported an AUC of 0.951, with all cases of DWH correctly identified at the Youden threshold."

This clarifies that the findings belong to the referenced study, not the Letter.

More concise conclusion: The current conclusion reads like a review. It should be shortened to 2–3 sentences summarizing the core commentary, e.g.:

The model shows promise;

However, reliance on postoperative data and lack of external validation limit translation;

Future studies should emphasize multicenter validation and preoperative predictors.

Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 114499

Title: Machine learning approaches to early detection of delayed wound healing following gastric cancer surgery

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 08036599
Position: Peer Reviewer
Academic degree and professional title: Assistant Professor, PhD, Researcher
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Pakistan
Author's Country/Territory: Türkiye

Manuscript submission date: 2025-09-20

Reviewer chosen by: Shang Wu

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-10-25 16:53

Reviewer performed review: 2025-10-27 08:56

Review time: 1 Day and 16 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? **Yes** Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? **No** Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? **Yes** Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? **Yes** Are the Key Words complete? **Yes**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

	Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Yes** Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete? **Yes** Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Yes** Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Yes** Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Yes** Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Not Applicable** Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Not Applicable** Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **No** Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Not Applicable** Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes** Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes** Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes** Do authors omit important references? **No** Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes** Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No** Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes** Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers? **Yes**

Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: office@baishideng.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

	Are additional experiments needed for the study? **Yes** Does the research scope comply with ethics? **Yes**
Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Language quality	Grade A (Excellent)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	Yes
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	Yes
Conclusion	Accept
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

All queries were handled appropriately, and the paper is now accepted for possible publication.