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**TÍTULO:** Ex vivo dissection increases lymph node yield in gastric cancer: results from a single western centre

**OBJECTIVO:** Retrieval and analysis of an adequate number of lymph nodes is critical for accurate staging of gastric cancer. Lymphadenectomy is crucial in the surgical management of gastric cancer patients. We hypothesize that an ex vivo lymphadenectomy when compared to a not ex vivo one, increased lymph node yield and it is beneficial in term of overall survival.

**MATERIAL E MÉTODOS:** We retrospectively reviewed 300 consecutive patients who underwent gastric surgery for adenocarcinoma, between January 2004 and March 2016. Since June 2007, we have started to perform ex vivo lymphadenectomy (ED), immediately after gastric resection avoiding to submit specimens en bloc with all the lymphonodes attached (not ex vivo dissection NED). Primary end point was lymph node yield. Secondary end points, was survival comparison between the two groups.

**RESULTADOS:** The median number of lymph nodes harvested was significantly higher in the ED compared to that in the NED group (27 vs. 21 lymph nodes, respectively; P

**DISCUSSÃO:** Ex vivo lymphoadenectomy seems to increase the number of lymphnodes harvested improving tumor staging.

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