Appendix. Search strategy for identification of studies to be included in the review.

Search strategy
i) Controlling nutritional status score OR CONUT OR immune-nutritional biomarker OR serum albumin OR total cholesterol OR lymphocyte count.
ii) Stomach tumor OR gastric tumor OR gastric neoplasm OR gastric malignancy OR gastric carcinoma OR gastric adenocarcinoma)
iii) Outcomes OR mortality OR survival OR recurrence OR prognosis OR prognostic
iv) (#1 AND #2 AND #3)
v) (Addresses[ptyp] OR Autobiography[ptyp] OR Bibliography[ptyp] OR Biography[ptyp] OR pubmed books[filter] OR Case Reports[ptyp] OR Congresses[ptyp] OR Consensus Development Conference[ptyp] OR Directory[ptyp] OR Duplicate Publication[ptyp] OR Editorial[ptyp] OR Systematic reviews OR Meta-analysis OR Festschrift[ptyp] OR Guideline[ptyp] OR In Vitro[ptyp] OR Interview[ptyp] OR Lectures [ptyp] OR Legal Cases[ptyp] OR News[ptyp] OR Newspaper Article[ptyp] OR Personal Narratives [ptyp] OR Portraits[ptyp] OR Retracted Publication[ptyp] OR Twin Study[ptyp] OR Video-Audio Media[ptyp])
vi) (#4 NOT #5)

Table SI. Author's judgements about study quality using the adapted Ottawa-Newcastle Risk of Bias Assessment tool.

Parameter	Zhu *et al* (12)	Galizia *et al* (13)	Sun *et al* (14)	Qian *et al* (15)	Jin *et al* (16)	Akagunduz *et al* (17)	Lin *et al* (18)	Huang *et al* (19)
Representativeness/appropriateness of participant selection Random or consecutive recruitment=Y Convenience sample=N Not reported or unclear	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Control for baseline differences in cohorts Similarity of groups at baseline or adjustment in analyses=Y No attempt to control or adjust=N Not reported=NR	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Loss to follow-up Explanation provided for loss of participants and/or intention to treat=Y No explanation =N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Masking of exposure to outcomes assessor Description of masking=Y No masking or no description =N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ascertainment of condition Description of ascertainment/diagnostic criteria=Y No description or patient self-report=N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Documentation of other treatment modalities Documentation=Y No documentation=N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

Extent to which valid outcomes are described Adequate description of outcome=Y Insufficient detail regarding outcome or follow-up time=N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Pre-specification of harms, mode of harms collection Description of a list of harms assessed or monitoring=Y No such description or passive harms collection=N No adverse events reported=NA	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Financial Conflict of interest (COI) Funding source reported=Y Funding source not reported=N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y

Table SI continued. Author's judgements about study quality using the adapted Ottawa-Newcastle Risk of Bias Assessment tool.

Parameter	Jeon *et al* (20)	Hirahara *et al* (21)	Kuroda *et al* (22)	Zheng *et al* (23)	Liu *et al* (24)	Ryo *et al* (25)	Suzuki *et al* (26)	Xiao *et al* (27)	Aoyama *et al* (28)
Representativeness/appropriateness of participant selection Random or consecutive recruitment=Y Convenience sample=N Not reported or unclear	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Control for baseline differences in cohorts Similarity of groups at baseline or adjustment in analyses=Y No attempt to control or adjust=N Not reported=NR	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Loss to follow-up Explanation provided for loss of participants and/or intention to treat=Y No explanation =N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Masking of exposure to outcomes assessor Description of masking=Y No masking or no description =N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ascertainment of condition Description of ascertainment/diagnostic criteria=Y No description or patient self-report=N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Documentation of other treatment modalities Documentation=Y No documentation=N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Extent to which valid outcomes are described Adequate description of outcome=Y Insufficient detail regarding outcome or follow-up time=N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pre-specification of harms, mode of harms collection Description of a list of harms assessed or monitoring=Y No such description or passive harms collection=N No adverse events reported=NA	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Financial Conflict of interest (COI) Funding source reported=Y Funding source not reported=N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Table SII. Findings of the Eggers test for the outcomes.

Outcomes	Number of studies	Bias with 95% confidence interval	P-value
Overall survival	14	0.78 (-0.46, 2.02)	0.19
Recurrence free survival	7	2.22 (-1.18, 4.25)	0.38
Cancer specific survival	4	2.69 (-7.12, 12.5)	0.36
T3 or T4 tumor status	8	-2.75 (-8.27, 2.77)	0.27
N2 or N3 nodal status	8	0.46 (-3.81, 4.72)	0.80
Stage III or stage IV tumor	12	2.03 (-1.24, 3.82)	0.30
Poor tumour differentiation	9	3.31 (-1.21, 6.83)	0.16
Microvascular invasion	5	3.33 (-1.83, 8.49)	0.13
Need for adjuvant chemotherapy	5	-0.32 (-10.2, 9.5)	0.92
Post-operative complications	11	1.78 (0.84, 2.72)	0.002