

Supplementary Table 1. Clinicopathological characteristics of the patient populations

| | EBV status | | | | | | p | |
|-----------|-------------------------|------|--------------------|------|-----------------|------|---------------------|--|
| | Complete cohort (n=571) | | Negative (n=540) | | Positive (n=31) | | | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | | |
| Gender | | | | | | | 0.111 [#] | |
| Male | 407 | 71.3 | 381 | 70.6 | 26 | 83.9 | | |
| Female | 164 | 28.7 | 159 | 29.4 | 5 | 16.1 | | |
| Age, year | 571 | | 540 | | 31 | | 0.049 ^{\$} | |
| Median | 59 | | 59 | | 54 | | | |
| T stage | | | | | | | 0.912 [#] | |
| 1a | 6 | 1.1 | 6 | 1.1 | 0 | 0 | | |
| 1b | 12 | 2.2 | 11 | 2.1 | 1 | 3.4 | | |
| 2 | 67 | 11.6 | 65 | 12.4 | 2 | 6.9 | | |
| 3 | 238 | 42.2 | 224 | 42.7 | 14 | 48.3 | | |
| 4a | 207 | 37.4 | 196 | 37.3 | 11 | 37.9 | | |
| 4b | 24 | 4.3 | 23 | 4.4 | 1 | 3.4 | | |
| N stage | | | | | | | 0.091 [#] | |
| N0 | 112 | 20.4 | 107 | 20.6 | 5 | 17.2 | | |
| N1 | 102 | 18.6 | 92 | 17.7 | 10 | 34.5 | | |
| N2 | 137 | 25 | 132 | 25.4 | 5 | 17.2 | | |
| N3a | 122 | 22.2 | 119 | 22.9 | 3 | 10.3 | | |
| N3b | 76 | 13.8 | 70 | 13.5 | 6 | 20.7 | | |
| M stage | | | | | | | 0.220 [#] | |
| M0 | 518 | 94.4 | 492 | 94.6 | 26 | 89.7 | | |
| M1 | 31 | 5.6 | 28 | 5.4 | 3 | 10.3 | | |

| AJCC | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|------|-----|------|----|------|--------------------|
| Ia | 14 | 2.6 | 13 | 2.5 | 1 | 3.4 | 0.370 [#] |
| Ib | 32 | 5.8 | 32 | 6.1 | 0 | 0 | |
| IIa | 54 | 9.8 | 49 | 9.4 | 5 | 17.2 | |
| IIb | 93 | 16.9 | 86 | 16.5 | 7 | 24.1 | |
| IIIa | 98 | 17.9 | 94 | 18.1 | 4 | 13.8 | |
| IIIb | 138 | 25.1 | 134 | 25.8 | 4 | 13.8 | |
| IIIc | 89 | 16.2 | 84 | 16.2 | 5 | 17.2 | |
| IV | 31 | 5.6 | 28 | 5.4 | 3 | 10.3 | |
| Tumor location | | | | | | | 0.181 [#] |
| Upper 1/3 | 184 | 34.8 | 172 | 34.4 | 12 | 41.4 | |
| Middle 1/3 | 84 | 15.9 | 78 | 15.6 | 6 | 20.7 | |
| Low 1/3 | 211 | 39.9 | 205 | 41 | 6 | 20.7 | |
| Upper 2/3 and whole | 47 | 8.9 | 42 | 8.4 | 5 | 17.2 | |
| Remnant | 3 | 0.6 | 3 | 0.6 | 0 | 0 | |
| Histology | | | | | | | 0.493 [#] |
| Adenocarcinoma | 526 | 92.6 | 498 | 92.7 | 28 | 90.3 | |
| Other types | 42 | 7.4 | 39 | 7.3 | 3 | 9.7 | |
| Differentiation | | | | | | | 0.324 [#] |
| High | 109 | 56.7 | 106 | 19.5 | 3 | 9.5 | |
| Moderate | 138 | 24.2 | 131 | 24.3 | 7 | 22.8 | |
| Low | 324 | 56.7 | 303 | 56.2 | 21 | 66.7 | |

Abbreviations: EBV, Epstein-Barr virus; T, tumor; N, node; M, metastasis; N, number.

[#]Pearson χ^2 or Fisher's exact test.

^{\$}Mann-Whitney U test.