

Table 2**Lymph node status of patients with superficial ESC enrolled in this study**

| Depth of tumor invasion | n | number of cases lymph node metastasis | FDG uptake by lymph node metastasis |
|-------------------------|----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| M1 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| M2 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| M3 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| SM1 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| SM2 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| SM3 | 32 | 16 | 2 |

ESC, Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

M1, intraepithelial carcinoma;

M2, tumors intermediate between m1 and m3

M3, tumor extremely close to or infiltrating the lamina muscularis mucosa

SM1, tumor invasion to the shallow strata (medial third) of the submucosal layer

SM2, tumor invasion into the middle strata (middle third) of the submucosal layer

SM3, tumor invasion into the deep strata (outer third) of the submucosal layer