**Table S1** Lymph node metastasis in pathological T categories

| Pathological T | pN0 | pN1 | pN2 | pN3 | pN+ | P value   |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| pT1a           | 10 (90.9) | 1 (9.1) | 0 | 0 | 1 (9.1) | 0.017* |
| pT1b           | 30 (85.7) | 5 (14.3) | 0 | 0 | 5 (14.3) |      |
| pT2            | 27 (77.1) | 4 (11.4) | 3 (8.6) | 1 (2.9) | 8 (22.9) |      |
| pT3            | 37 (62.7) | 18 (30.5) | 4 (6.8) | 0 | 22 (37.3) |      |

*, Statistically significant; §, pT1a, 1b, 2, 3 and pN0, pN+.

**Table S2** The distribution of pT2–3 vs. pT1 in the stratification of the discriminating model

| SUVmax category | bG category | Age category | pT1, n (%) | pT2–3, n (%) |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| ≤7.4            | Well or moderately | ≤65 | 15 (93.8) | 1 (6.3) |
| ≤7.4            | Well or moderately | >65 | 7 (70.0) | 3 (30.0) |
| ≤7.4            | Poorly      | ≤65 | 5 (71.4) | 2 (28.6) |
| ≤7.4            | Poorly      | >65 | 0 | 2 (100.0) |
| ≤7.4            | Unknown     | ≤65 | 2 (100.0) | 0 |
| ≤7.4            | Unknown     | >65 | 5 (100.0) | 0 |
| >7.4            | Well or moderately | ≤65 | 6 (20.7) | 23 (79.3) |
| >7.4            | Well or moderately | >65 | 2 (6.9) | 27 (93.1) |
| >7.4            | Poorly      | ≤65 | 1 (7.1) | 13 (92.9) |
| >7.4            | Poorly      | >65 | 1 (5.6) | 17 (94.3) |
| >7.4            | Unknown     | ≤65 | 1 (25.0) | 3 (75.0) |
| >7.4            | Unknown     | >65 | 1 (25.0) | 3 (75.0) |

SUVmax, maximal standard uptake value; bG category, biopsy differentiation grade category; pT, pathological T (invasion depth).