

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

Manuscript NO: 32516

Title: Sampling error in the histological work-up of rectal neoplasms

Reviewer's code: 02512504

Reviewer's country: Switzerland

Science editor: Yuan Qi

Date sent for review: 2017-01-12

Date reviewed: 2017-02-06

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		[Y] No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		[Y] No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

B?kkerink et al describe the use of macrobiopsies in the diagnosis of rectal cancer. The question is of relevance and the data of interest. The authors should, however, clarify a few points: - It should be clarified that this is a retrospective study - Despite this is a retrospective analysis, it should clearly be stated whether there was a clinical protocol or the procedure was just depending on the physician in charge. Why where 27 patients not further analyzed by rigid endoscopy? Please clarify. - The title is misleading: Based on a retrospective analysis an overall sampling error, i.e. a sensitivity of the conventional biopsy cannot be assessed. The title should be more modest (e.g. Impact of macrobiopsies in the histological workup of rectal neoplasms) - Ethical statement: The ethical statement is insufficient: Basically, this is an interventional study which should have an ethical statement by an Ethical Committee (please give a reference number of the local EC). In addition, a reference (literature or homepage) should be given for the statement that "the study was exempted from informed consent according to Dutch regulations".