



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 48774

Title: Neoadjuvant radiotherapy for rectal cancer management

Reviewer's code: 00536689

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-06-04 15:23

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-04 15:34

Review time: 1 Hour

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I read the manuscript very carefully. The subject of the manuscript is really very current. The manuscript is well written. The various aspects of this interesting topic are elucidated with attention and balance. The authors deal with this topic reporting current and recent literature. The tables are sufficiently comprehensive. I believe that some



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

figures (especially surgical operations and resection volume) could be useful. The figures could enrich the paragraph relating to surgical treatment, which could not be immediately understood by readers who are not surgeons. I believe that the paragraph on the interval between integrated treatments and surgery and the section on anterior resection syndrome are really interesting.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- The same title
- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- No

BPG Search:

- The same title
- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- No



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 48774

Title: Neoadjuvant radiotherapy for rectal cancer management

Reviewer’s code: 02520781

Reviewer’s country: France

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-06-04 06:14

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-11 07:08

Review time: 7 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer’s expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is not clear if this paper is dealing with neoadjuvant radiotherapy or chemoradiotherapy or Total neoadjuvant therapy (TNT) . This should be better clarified from the start of the paper. P13 the Lyon R90-01 have been updated with 15 years followup (Ref E Cotte et al IJROBP 2015). This could be mentioned. P14 Interval of 8



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

weeks ... compared to interval of 8 weeks. Not clear : discrepancy ++ P15 debate still continues ... long vs short interval. If the aim is rectal preservation after clinical complete response only long course can be proposed. P20 Watch and wait. It is important to distinguish clearly pathological complete response (pCR) and Clinical CR (cCR) . Habr Gama was proposing observation only for cCR. P22 TAE for tumours less than 4 cm: most guidelines recommend TAE for T less than 3 cm or equal to 2 cm. Table 3 : many interesting studies are presented . The work of Appelt is mentioned. This study is using endocavitary irradiation to increase the radiation dose. This study was negative. It could be interesting to mention in this table other endocavitary studies with Iridium HDR (Garfinkle R, Vuong T Dis Col Rect 2019; Rijkman s EC IJROBP 2017) or Contact X-Ray Brachytherapy using 50 kV X-rays (CXB): Gerard JP Eur J Cancer 2019; Sun Myint A IJROBP 2017 with one Phase III trial demonstrating increase cCR and organ sparing using CXB (Gerard JP JCO 2004 ; Ortholan C IJROBP 2012 results at 10 years. Overall this is a general review describing the present situation of neoadjuvant treatments in rectal cancer. There is a need to give more descriptions of the organ saving approach using endocaviatry techniques like Contact X-Ray or Iridium HDR. These techniques provide at the present time the best results in terms of cCR and long term organ saving with low toxicity. The present review brings good overview but no original findings or “philosophy” of such neoadjuvant treatments.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- [] The same title
- [] Duplicate publication
- [] Plagiarism
- [Y] No



Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

BPG Search:

- The same title
- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- Y] No



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 48774

Title: Neoadjuvant radiotherapy for rectal cancer management

Reviewer's code: 03003594

Reviewer's country: United Kingdom

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-06-04 06:15

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-13 15:53

Review time: 9 Days and 9 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is an interesting and informative review article surrounding the management of rectal carcinoma, specifically in relation to neoadjuvant therapy. There are a few other recent reviews around this subject, however they are often more specific and this is an excellent overview, especially for those seeking a more generalised update. I believe



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

that this article would positively contribute to the current literature and evidence base in this area. The reference material within the review appears appropriate and up to date. The figures and tables are relevant to the text and easy to interpret. There are occasional spelling errors (including the use of UK and US English within the same sentence) throughout the article.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- The same title
- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- No

BPG Search:

- The same title
- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- No



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 48774

Title: Neoadjuvant radiotherapy for rectal cancer management

Reviewer's code: 00073640

Reviewer's country: Slovenia

Science editor: Ruo-Yu Ma

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-06-04 07:22

Reviewer performed review: 2019-06-17 12:24

Review time: 13 Days and 5 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Title: Neoadjuvant Therapy for Rectal Cancer Management
The topic of the manuscript is interesting and topical, article is well structured. However, I had some problems with the understanding the core of the article, because there is a lot of information with no clear explanation, what is the meaning of it – often the reader should find the red line



**Baishideng
Publishing
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

and the reason why the information is there... However, to improve the manuscript I suggest the following: - correct the title - Radiotherapy instead of Therapy - the manuscript deals with the radiotherapy - improve the abstract - in the abstract the authors talk about neoadjuvant therapy, but articles deals with neoadjuvant radiotherapy. The subject of the review article is not clearly introduced. Some information in the abstract could be deleted, because they cause more confusion than clarification. For instance, first sentence, or explaining the surgical strategies, while only 2 sentence at the end mention neoadjuvant therapy (it should be radiotherapy) - core tip is much more informative than the abstract - introduction section- first paragraph - there is information about rectal cancer new cases in 2019 and than information about rectal cancer new cases in 2018 ? - line 8 of the second paragraph there is a sentence that neoadjuvant therapy comprises a radiotherapy alone or in combination with chemotherapy - however in the text that follows I strongly advise to be precise with the wording of the neoadjuvant therapy - for instance it is radiotherapy or a combination etc - Article is written for those who are experts from the field of rectal cancer management, therefore, it advise to include some sentences about basic knowledge and picture demonstrating the difference between colon and rectal cancer and main characteristics of current surgery resection - Radiotherapy section - I advise to start with the second paragraph (Neoadjuvant therapy..) and than followed by the first (The decision...)

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- [] The same title
- [] Duplicate publication
- [] Plagiarism
- [Y] No



Baishideng Publishing Group

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-223-8242
Fax: +1-925-223-8243
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

BPG Search:

- The same title
- Duplicate publication
- Plagiarism
- No