

Dear Editor in Chief

Regarding the questions of the reviewers:

**Question:**

1. PE might be a great idea to reduce morbidity. However, it is very difficult to reveal the causal relationship of PE and reduced blood loss. In my experience, most intraoperative bleeding happens during peri-tumoral dissection, not tumor itself. Furthermore, rectal cancer is not a hypervascular tumor.

**Answer:**

We agree with the reviewer's observation. The achievement of adequate TME is the major protective factor against bleeding during surgery and rectal tumors are not usually hypervascularized. However, in the clinical case, we present a tumor with a high degree of vascularization and risk of bleeding, as seen in preoperative imaging exams. In our experience, bulky tumors like the one presented make it difficult to perform the proper TME and preoperative embolization ensured a bloodless procedure.

**Question:**

2. Authors showed a great figure of total mesorectal excision (TME) specimen. Your fine TME procedure itself might reduce blood loss rather than effect of PE of tumor. Authors underwent surgery 2 days after surgery. In pathology, extensive tumor necrosis was observed in rectal cancer. Rectal tumor necrosis might cause the risk of intraoperative tumor perforation during peri-tumoral dissection. Thus, authors should discuss about the causal relationship of PE and reduced blood loss and risk of PE.

**Answer:**

PE as a strategy to reduce intraoperative blood loss is a concept that has been developed for several anatomical territories. In pelvic tumors devascularization rates greater than 75% can be obtained. In our experience, PE was safe and successfully reduced intraoperative bleeding in a case of a giant cavernous hemangioma of the rectum. Although relatively simple and safe, PE can lead to significant tumor necrosis and a higher risk of bleeding, therefore, surgical resection of the tumor mass must be performed early. At our institution, we chose to perform the definitive operation within 48 h after PE.