

Apr 5, 2021

Dr. Jin Gu, Dr. Varut Lohsiriwat, Dr. Shu-You Peng
Editor in Chief, *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

Manuscript NO: 62576

Dear Dr. Jin Gu, Dr. Varut Lohsiriwat, Dr. Shu-You Peng:

First, we wish to express our gratitude to the reviewer for their insightful comments, which have helped us to significantly improve our manuscript entitled "Borderline resectable for colorectal liver metastases ~ Present status and future perspective ~" (Review Article). We agree with the points raised by the reviewers and have revised the manuscript accordingly. We hope the revisions are satisfactory for the publication in *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*.

Thank you for considering the paper for publication in *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

Sincerely yours,

Hiromitsu Hayashi, MD, PhD, FACS,
Department of Gastroenterological Surgery, Graduate School of Medicine,
Kumamoto University, 1-1-1 Honjo, Chuo-ku, Kumamoto 860-8556, Japan.
Tel: +81-96-373-5211
Fax: +81-96-371-4378
E-mail: hhayasi@kumamoto-u.ac.jp

Comments from Reviewer 1:

Kitano et al. reviewed present status and future perspective for borderline resectable CRLM. The authors presented that "borderline resectable" is defined as oncologically highly malignant (simultaneous liver metastasis, multiple tumors, large tumor diameter, high level of CEA, extrahepatic lesions) or technically difficult (necessity of special procedures such as RFA, PVE, TSH, and ALPPS for R0 resection or close to the main vessel), and hepatectomy after preoperative adjuvant chemotherapy is recommended as a treatment policy according to the previous studies. They also pointed out that the analysis using big data or a multicenter randomized controlled trial that examines the use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy for borderline resectable CRLM are needed in the future. I show below a few suggestions to improve the manuscript: 1. I did not agree to the first sentence in Abstract "Surgical resection for colorectal liver metastases (CRLM) is the only treatment that can improve the prognosis". Surgical resection for CRLM may offer the best opportunity to improve the prognosis of patients, it's not the only treatment. 2. For my opinion, borderline resectable CRLM is almost the same definition of potentially resectable CRLM. The authors did a search of "borderline resectable" AND "colorectal liver metastases" with the literature search tool PubMed and found only 38 related reports. I suggested a search with "potentially resectable" AND "colorectal liver metastases", a conclusion drawn from these more than 1000 studies is more convincing. 3. The language needs polishing.

Response to reviewer 1:

Thank you very much for your constructive comments on our manuscript and time taken to review it. Corrections in the manuscript are emphasized by red letters. According to the comments, we revised the manuscript as follows:

Major comment 1:

I did not agree to the first sentence in Abstract "Surgical resection for colorectal liver metastases (CRLM) is the only treatment that can improve the prognosis". Surgical resection for CRLM may offer the best opportunity to improve the prognosis of patients, it's not the only treatment.

Reply:

Thank you for your valuable comments. We changed the sentence in abstract (p.2 line 2-3). Thank you for your helpful comment.

Revised:

Abstract

Surgical resection for colorectal liver metastases (CRLM) may offer the best opportunity to improve the prognosis.

Major comment 2:

For my opinion, borderline resectable CRLM is almost the same definition of potentially resectable CRLM. The authors did a search of "borderline resectable" AND "colorectal liver metastases" with the literature search tool PubMed and found only 38 related reports. I suggested a search with "potentially resectable" AND "colorectal liver metastases", a conclusion drawn from these more than 1000 studies is more convincing.

Reply:

Thank you for your important comment. We did a search of "colorectal liver metastases" AND "borderline resectable" or "potentially resectable" **in the abstract** by using PubMed and found 76 related reports. So, we changed the sentence in page 10 line 2-5.

Revised:

A search of "colorectal liver metastases" AND "borderline resectable" or "potentially resectable" in the abstract by using the literature search tool PubMed found 76 related reports, but only nine actually referred in detail to borderline resectable as an aspect of CRLM ^[3, 42-49].

Table.

Major comment 3:

The language needs polishing.

Reply:

Thank you for your important comment. We requested an English proofreading to specialist.