

Dear Editor,

We wish to thank you for your kind attention and the reviewers for their detailed comments about our article. The manuscript has been revised in accordance with the reviewers' thoughtful suggestions. Please find our responses to the reviewers' comments below. We sincerely hope that you will find our manuscript acceptable for publication in the *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*. Thank you very much for your help. I am looking forward to your decision.

*Science editor' comments:*

1. The title is too long, and it should be no more than 18 words

*Author Response:* As suggested, the title has been modified.

2. The "Author Contributions" section is missing. Please provide the author contributions

*Author Response:* The "Author Contributions" was added to the revised manuscript.

3. The authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s)

*Author Response:* The approved grant application form(s) has been uploaded

4. The authors did not provide original pictures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor

*Author Response:* The original images have been uploaded.

5. The "Article Highlights" section is missing. Please add the "Article Highlights" section at the end of the main text

*Author Response:* "Article Highlights" has been added to the revised manuscript.

Sincerely yours

Zhi

Dear Reviewer:

Thank you very much for your helpful and valuable comments, which have improved our paper. The manuscript has been revised in accordance with your thoughtful suggestions. Our responses to the reviewers' comments are included below.

*Reviewers' comments:*

1. In the abstract, the number "60870" should be "60,870". Same in the Results section, 60870, 2908, and 57962 should be "60,870", "2,908" and "57,962". "13350" should be "13,350". Same as in the PRISMA flow chart, please modify

those numbers too.

*Author Response:*

The numbers in the abstract, results, and flow diagram have been revised as suggested.

2. In the abstract, the comma after the word Colostomy in the results section should be typed in English mode not Chinese mode.

*Author Response:*

The comma has been modified to the English type.

3. I also suggest to add the exact data of HR and RR, 95%CI, P value of the main results to the abstract too

*Author Response:*

The HR, RR, 95% CI, and *p* values of the main results have been added to the abstract.