PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 69357

Title: Predictive value of serum alpha-fetoprotein for tumor regression after preoperative chemotherapy for rectal cancer

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06110650

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: New Zealand

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-12

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-08-15 16:40

Reviewer performed review: 2021-08-28 22:50

Review time: 13 Days and 6 Hours

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Very good [ ] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

As the preoperative chemoradiotherapy can reduce the rate of local recurrence significantly, but the survival is satisfied after radiotherapy. Different protocols for preoperative chemotherapy alone that consist of oxaliplatin and 5-fluorouracil are recommended. This study evaluated the association between   -fetoprotein and tumor regression grade of rectal cancer after preoperative chemotherapy. The tumor regression grade and complete response rate in different groups were compared and whether increased serum   -fetoprotein can predict the effect of preoperative chemotherapy were explored. The patients were selected in a reasonable manner, and the methods are described in detail. The results of the association between   -fetoprotein, tumor regression grade, and complete response are very interesting. The discussion of the results is good. After a minor revision, this study can be accepted for publication.

Comments: 1. There are some minor language polishing, which requires to be corrected. 2. A conclusion should be added into the main text. 3. The references should be formatted. 4. Data in tables are interesting, however, please indicate the P value of significant difference.

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Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Germany

Author's Country/Territory: China

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This retrospective study of predictive value of serum AFP for tumor regression after preoperative chemotherapy for rectal cancer is very interesting. The authors investigated whether the increase in serum AFP can predict better efficacy of preoperative chemotherapy. The methods are clearly described and the results are very interesting. The results suggest that the patients with a slight increase in serum AFP can achieve better tumor regression during preoperative chemotherapy. Overall, the manuscript is well written. The reviewer has no specific comments to the authors.