

## Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS



February 12, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 7139-review.doc).

**Title:** Selection criteria in resectable pancreatic cancer: a biological and morphological based approach

**Author:** Domenico Tamburrino, Stefano Partelli, Stefano Crippa, Alberto Manzoni, Angela Maurizi and Massimo Falconi

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 7139

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 n° **02544751**

We thank the reviewer for his/her suggestions

2 n° **02544301**

Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

- (1) *"I believe the paper would be more helpful if the authors started by laying out the vascular criteria for resection, then discussed radiological staging, and then proceeded to their discussion of the influence of biological factors such as comorbidity, age, duration of symptoms, CA 19-9, etc."*

We have considered a step-by-step approach to a patient with pancreatic cancer from the specialist in the outpatient clinic, so the first step is the clinical history and laboratory, then the radiological evaluation. We added in the paper this explanation (see page 3, line 37 and page 4, line 1-2).

- (2) *"The hypothesis that pancreatic cancers are heterogeneous in behavior and that some tumors are more likely to metastasize early (as indicated by loss of SMAD4) might be interesting to discuss as an area for future investigation. One could hypothesize that patients with SMAD4 loss might not benefit as much from surgery even if they have resectable tumors."*

We thank the reviewer for this suggestion. We provided to add a paragraph about this topic (see page 7, line 4-21).

3 n° **02544677**

We thank the reviewer for his/her suggestions

Thank you again for your interest in our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

*Massimo Falconi*

Massimo Falconi, MD

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