

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



March 18, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: edited9446 - (vs1).doc).

Title: Personalizing medicine for metastatic colorectal cancer: current developments

Author: Andrea Marin Marques, Alice Turner, Ramon Andrade de Mello

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9446

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

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer I (00057780)

"This is a very extensive invited review article of recent clinical trials and therapies for colorectal cancer. The manuscript is well written"

REPLY: Thank you for your comments. We are delighted to hear from you your thoughts concerning our work.

Reviewer II (00503405)

"In the minireview of Marques et al (Personalizing medicine for metastatic colorectal cancer: current developments) the authors aimed to summarize the the novel opportunities in targeted therapy of metastatic CRC. The content of the review is very interesting, well written, the used references are up-to-date. However, there is one point that would be interesting to shortly discuss in the manuscript: namely, the role of molecular biology based CRC diagnosis in patient selection for these novel and expensive therapies. The abstract must be enhanced as well, and a core tip must be also included. After minor revision, I suggest to accept the review for publication in WJG."

REPLY: Thank you for your comments. We addressed all the requested issues throughout the manuscript. Please see in yellow high-light in the text:

"Abstract

Metastatic colorectal cancer is still one of the tumor types with the highest incidence and mortality. In 2012, CRC was the second most prevalence cancer among males (9%) and the..."

"**Core tip:** Metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC) treatment remains a challenge for clinicians worldwide. Recently, tumor molecular profile and tailored therapies are objects..."

"Therefore, with developed in the knowledge and understanding of molecular pathways was possible to the identification of genetic markers existed in some patients. This can be

used as a therapeutic target or may to explain why some patients do not respond...”

Reviewer III (181285)

“Although this article is an easy reading, it lacks deepness and is just an overview (or maybe a summary) of the most important articles dealing with chemotherapy in advanced colorectal cancer”

REPLY: Dear Reviewer, our article is a mini-review which summarizes the main issues regarding the most important innovative target therapies for metastatic colorectal cancer and not chemotherapy as you had mentioned in your comment. The drugs focused in our article, such as aflibercept, sunitinib, vatalanib, semaxanib and regorafenib, are considered biological or target agents, monoclonal antibodies or tyrosine kinase inhibitors, and not chemotherapy. We believe that our article could represent a valuable educative source of research mainly for young physicians and translational scientists in the field.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

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

Sincerely yours,

Ramon Andrade de Mello, MD, PhD

Department of Medical Oncology, Portuguese Oncology Institute, Porto, Portugal.

Department of Biomedical Sciences and Medicine, University of Algarve, Portugal

E-mail: ramondemello@gmail.com or ramello@ualg.pt