

February 1, 2024.

Professor Jian-Hua Mao, BSc, MSc, PhD., Hiten RH Patel, BM BCh, BSc, FRCS, PhD., Stephen Safe, PhD and Ken H Young, MD, PhD.

Editor-in-Chief Professors.

World Journal of Clinical Oncology

Dear Editors-in-Chief,

On behalf of our co-authors, we would like to thank you and the reviewers for the constructive feedback on our manuscript originally entitled "**Management of lateral pelvic lymph nodes in rectal cancer. Is it time to reach an Agreement?**"

The reviewers raised valuable points, that we have addressed. Please find attached our point by point reply to the reviewer's comments and the revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Felipe Couñago, MD, Ph.D

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Response to Reviewer's Comments

Manuscript Number: 91057, Editorial.

" Management of lateral pelvic lymph nodes in rectal cancer. Is it time to reach an Agreement?".

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good).

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing).

Conclusion: Accept (General priority).

Specific Comments to Authors:

I personally agree with the author's opinions. It's useful editorial comments targeting the this topic.

Response: Thanks to the reviewer for the positive comments.

Editorial offices' comments:

Editorial Office's comments and suggestions:

4.- Specific comments:

(1) The *WJCO* article which this editorial discussed has not been listed in the references list. Please add the *WJCO* article which this editorial discussed **into the main text and references list** <Chua JYJ, Ngu JCY, Teo NZ. Current perspectives on the management of lateral pelvic lymph nodes in rectal cancer. *World J Clin Oncol* 2023;**14**:584-592 [PMID: 38179407 DOI: 10.5306/wjco.v14.i12.584]>.

Response: We appreciate the perspective of the Editorial Office, and to address this point effectively, we have added additional information in the text.

In the **Abstract**, following the statement "in the recent issue of the World Journal of Clinical Oncology," we have added the following text: "2023; 14: 584-592".

In the **Main text**, specifically at the end of the **introduction**, we have added the following paragraph:

"In this sense, we discuss the article by Chua JYJ et al, evaluating the available clinical evidence from various perspectives [16] ".

In the **References** section, we have added reference number 16, and consequently, we have adjusted the numbering of subsequent references.

16. Chua JYJ, Ngu JCY, Teo NZ. Current perspectives on the management of lateral pelvic lymph nodes in rectal cancer. *World J Clin Oncol* 2023; **14**: 584-592 [PMID: 38179407 DOI: 10.5306/wjco.v14.i12.584]

It has been requested to highlight the changes in the text, so below are the added changes (highlighted in yellow) in the requested text: