January 30, 2013

Ms. Ref. No.:

Title: Manuscript Title: Early dynamic transcriptomic changes during preoperative radiotherapy in patients with rectal cancer: a feasibility study

Dear Editor

Please find enclosed a revised manuscript in which we have addressed all the reviewer’s criticisms.

We believe our additional data and corrections are in agreement with our previous conclusion and reinforce the message of this work. Therefore, we hope you will now find the manuscript suitable for publication in the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Yours Sincerely,

Michel Cherel PhD

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Reviewer #1

*(1) The authors used “normal” tissues to describe adjacent tissues taken from rectal patients. As we have known and shown that adjacent tissues are not normal, so I suggest that the authors use “control”, instead of “normal”.*

We agree with the reviewer and replaced « normal tissue» by « control tissue » throughout the manuscript.

*(2) How far the “normal” tissue taken from tumor center should be stated in the manuscript.*

The control biopsies were taken at a minimum distance of 3 cm from the macroscopic tumor volume. We added this sentence in the material and methods section (p4)

*(3) It is better to show the association between transcriptomic changes and clinical outcomes in these rectal patients.*

We added a column in the patient description table (Table 1) with clinical outcomes and final pathological stage. Given the very small number of patients, we cannot provide survival data according to the molecular profile.