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Baishideng Publishing Group Inc
8226 Regency Drive
Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA

RE: Manuscript NO: 18006 Proton Therapy for Pancreatic Cancer

Dear Dr. Garcia-Olmo:

Thank you for your recent review of our above-named manuscript for publication consideration in *World Journal of Gastroenterology*. We have revised the manuscript per the reviewer comments, and our responses to the comments are below. We hope you find the revised manuscript suitable for publication, and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Comment:

Sincerely,

R. Charles Nichols, MD

Reviewer 02537353

Comment: The manuscript is well written and the topic is very interesting

Response: Thank you for the positive feedback.

Reviewer 02543991

Comment: In this manuscript, the authors reviewed the current status of proton therapy for pancreatic cancer, and also discussed the potential of proton therapy in changing the management paradigm for pancreatic cancer. Overall, this is a good review showing the evolution of proton radiotherapy of pancreatic cancer and providing an alternative for surgeons to employ radiotherapy in the postoperative setting and for the patients with unresectable cancers. The reviewer I agrees to publish this manuscript in this journal upon a few modifications.

Response: Thank you for the encouraging feedback. We hope you find the revision suitable for publication.

Comment 1: In the “physics of particle therapy” section, the authors describe the mechanism of protons on located on tumors, the references should be added.

Response 1: We have added a reference to the textbook, *Proton Therapy Physics*, edited by Harold Paganetti.

Comment 2: In the “can protons improve the therapeutic ration” section, more literatures should be added in this part.

Response 2: Thank you for the comment. Unfortunately, we are not aware of any more literature to cite in this section as all publications we could find through PubMed on this topic have been cited.

Comment 3: The notes in Figure 3 are unclear, which should be improved.

Response 3: We have revised this legend as follows:

Figure 3: A passively scattered proton plan is shown on the left and an intensity-modulated x-ray therapy (IMRT) plan is shown on the right for a typical patient receiving postoperative radiotherapy for pancreatic cancer. To achieve a conformal dose distribution, the IMRT plan delivers beams from multiple angles and necessarily irradiates the entire cylinder of the abdomen. With protons, however, because the dose distribution can be modulated along the beam path, significant sparing of sensitive gastrointestinal structures (small bowel and stomach) can be achieved. In the proton plan, 75% of the dose is delivered via a posterior field which irradiates the tumor bed but does not exit into the small bowel. The remaining dose is delivered through a right lateral field which also irradiates the tumor bed but does not exit into the stomach.