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**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 21268

**Manuscript Type:** Review

### Response to reviewers :

Reviewer 1: I thank the reviewer for the comments, however no specific changes have been requested

Reviewer 2: I agree with the reviewer, that mortality and morbidity should be always kept in mind in discussions of additional therapies. However most studies evaluating postoperative mortality and morbidity after neoadjuvant radio- or chemoradiotherapy for pancreatic cancer failed to show a significant difference compared to surgery alone. I included a corresponding statement with several references into one of the sessions of the manuscript

Reviewer 3: I thank the reviewer for the comments and appreciate them much. However I disagree with the reviewer regarding his request for inclusion of more chemotherapy approaches. The aim of the review as stated in the title was to summarize radiotherapeutic neoadjuvant options rather than neoadjuvant options in general. Of course, new regimens like folfirinox and nab-paclitaxel/Gemcitabine are very promising and will be included also into neoadjuvant strategies (we do the same at our center), however it will probably not be possible to combine them concurrently with radiation even using the most sophisticated radiation techniques. Therefore I focused on strategies using radiation alone or concurrent chemoradiation and modern radiation techniques and mainly excluded neoadjuvant chemotherapy alone or induction chemotherapy approaches. However, I agree that this fact was not mentioned clearly in the manuscript and therefore could result in some confusion. I therefore included a paragraph into the introduction section explaining the focus of the review and one section called „future directions“ describing shortly the new opportunities with the introduction of more potent chemotherapy combinations like folfirinox and the consecutive need to focus also on sequencing radiation/chemoradiation and chemotherapy within future radiation research with

some references. I have also included a corresponding statement into the summary at the end of the article. Minor language lapses have been corrected by a native speaker.