

March 12, 2020

RE: Manuscript R1: Treatment of Early Stage Colon Cancer: Current Standards, Evolving Paradigms and Future Directions

Manuscript # 54337

Dear Editor,

We greatly appreciate the review and comments of the reviewers. Our revised manuscript has been submitted with all modifications as instructed.

Below is our point by point response to the reviewer critique:

Reviewer 1

Comment: But in my opinion the text is too voluminous and lengthy. You should shorten and shape the content (e.g. section "duration of AC", "adjuvant therapy"), so that the important issues are more concise.

Response: As per reviewer's suggestions, sections "duration of AC" and "adjuvant therapy" have been shortened by 400 words each. Tracked changes have not been shown in the revised manuscript to avoid clutter. The word 'colon cancer' has been replaced by 'CC'.

Comment: Furthermore, please revise the manuscript carefully regarding spelling errors and editing issues: - headings and text within the tables are not uniform - wrong placing of heading Table 3 - revise Figure 1 due to readability aspect - please remove "%" on page 5, line 4 - revise "sage" to "stage" in heading page 18 - replace "6" to "six" on page 20, second paragraph - change "Stage" to "stage" on page 31 last paragraph - please revise "back bone" to "backbone" - please insert a blank between text and reference data within the text.

Response: All corrections have been made in the revised manuscript. Figure 1 has been modified as suggested. Original power point slide will be provided for publication which will have better clarity.

Reviewer 2

Comment: I suggest including the following in the Introduction section: - short statement, that colorectal carcinogenesis is a multistage process and it is curable disease, if diagnosed and removed very early at the precancerous or adenoma stage. Include that in clinical practice efforts have been directed toward identification and removal of precancerous lesions. Screening programs, which are based upon detection and removal of adenomas, have been implemented in a number of countries on nationwide scale. The early detection of cancer increases the likelihood of successful outcomes. However, although screening programs are promising and represent one of the important steps in reducing the mortality due to CRC (Orlando et al., 2008), reports demonstrate that there is still 25% of false-negative results due to flat or depressed precancerous lesions, which are commonly missed during conventional colonoscopy.

Response:

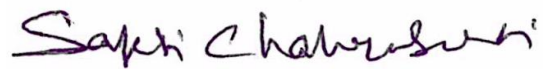
A paragraph has been added in the "Introduction" section (paragraph 2) to address this comment (underlined).

Comment: A suggestion has been made to add a 'short description about the stages of colon cancer'.

Response: A row has been added to Table 1 to define the stages.

We appreciate the opportunity. We look forward to your response.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Sakti Chakrabarti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sakti Chakrabarti

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