

Format for ANSWERING REVIEWERS

October 4, 2013

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 5499-edited.doc).

Title: Neo-adjuvant radiotherapy in rectal cancer

Author: Bengt Glimelius

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 5499

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Reviewer 02445570

1. Excellent comment, the word "anatomic" has been included.
2. Good comment, the word "high" has been added (at the place and at another one).
3. The paragraph now contains some more text about the results of the individual trials. Otherwise, detailed results are given in Table 2 and I do not want to repeat too much of the information from the table.
4. Again, text has been added about the pros and cons of the long- versus short-course schedule. This has also been done in a paragraph further down in the manuscript where the use of short-course and long-course RT is discussed in intermediate cancers. Much of the requested information was already given in Table 3 and I have again chosen not to duplicate too much information.

Thank you very much for the constructive criticism and the positive comments.

Reviewer 01333314

Thank you for the very positive comments.

As already said in the legends to Figure 1, the subdivision is primarily based upon the risk of local failure. However, as already said, there is a correlation between risk of local failure and risk of systemic failure. I have now added figures about the risk of disseminated disease and also added another footnote in the figure that expands upon the risk factors for systemic disease.

Whether the majority of patients are treated with neo-adjuvant therapy varies between countries. An algorithm like the one seen in the Figure does not necessarily increase the probability for a patient to have preoperative therapy.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bengt Glimelius'.

Bengt Glimelius, MD, PhD

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