

Santiago, Chile

September 30th, 2020

Dear Reviewers,

Thank you very much for taking the time and effort necessary to review our manuscript entitled: New Standard in Locally Advanced Rectal Cancer?

We sincerely appreciate all valuable comments and suggestions, which helped us to improve the quality of the article. Appropriate changes, suggested by the Reviewers, has been introduced to the manuscript which are highlighted within the document.

We address all the comments. For the path CR of the Stockholm III we only compare the long and short course arms with delay because they were randomized and because both of them where without chemotherapy and in that way we make the point that from a clinical outcome (path CR) short course seems likely to be more active that long course (without chemo).

We are also attaching a slide presented in ASTRO by Tang from the STELLAR trial that show the data cited por this study.

Let us emphasize our full readiness to make any further improvements to the manuscript.

We hope that our manuscript will be acceptable for publication in World Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Best regards,

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STELLAR Results

Surgery and Histopathology		SCRT + CT (N=37)		CRT (N=38)	
		No.	%	No.	%
Operative model	Anterior resection	15	40.5%	16	42.1%
	Abdominoperineal resection	21	56.7%	22	57.9%
	Hartmann's	1	2.8%	0	0
R0 resection	Yes	34	91.9%	34	89.5%
	No	3	8.1%	4	10.5%
pCR rate		9	25.7%	3	7.9%

Treatment after neoadjuvant radiotherapy or chemotherapy		SCRT + CT (N=60)		CRT (N=58)	
		No.	%	No.	%
Radical surgery		37	61.7%	38	65.5%
Waiting for surgery		13	21.6%	10	17.2%
Wait and watch due to CCR of tumor		7	11.7%	0	0

Tang, ASTRO 2016