

Manuscript Number: 58746

Title: Prognostic value of changes in serum carcinoembryonic antigen levels for preoperative chemoradiotherapy response in locally advanced rectal cancer

Thank you for your comprehensive review of our manuscript "**Prognostic value of changes in serum carcinoembryonic antigen levels for preoperative chemoradiotherapy response in locally advanced rectal cancer**" submitted to World Journal of Gastroenterology.

Addressing your concerns, we have followed your suggestions and revised our manuscript according to your comments. Our revision is being resubmitted along with this letter which highlighting our changes. The following lists the revisions that were made to address your comments

1) Page, 12, Limits of the study: Please change "Limits" into "Limitation". Further, add the "Future prospectives" as last paragraph. I think it will be better. Do not described the Limitation of this study as the last paragraph.

-> I changed “limits” into **Limitations of this study**. I realized that “conclusion” is needed **in the last paragraph according to Journal’s format** and I added “conclusion” in the last paragraph. I also thought your suggestion was good and it could satisfy both your suggestion and the journal’s format.

2) I think the study design of this retrospective, one institution cohort study will not be changeable, however, the presentation of the result of the study is so nice and compactly summarized. Please add the new table(s) described the results on the similar manuscripts that have been published to date, and add the new references and the more discussions on the published manuscripts on prospective studies, if possible.

-> I added the **new tables as Table 1** described the results in the previous studies which demonstrated the value of CEA levels to predict the response of preoperative CRT for rectal cancer in the introduction. Although most of them were retrospectives, some were prospective designed studies I cited

Also I **updated references within recent 3 years** and more discussion about **published prospective studies in the discussion**.

Thanks again for reviewing my manuscript and I really appreciate the opportunity to develop

my study and manuscript.