

List of Responses

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled **"The efficacy and safety of intraoperative radiotherapy in rectal cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis"** (Manuscript NO: 60709). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as flowing:

Responds to the reviewer's comments:

Reviewer #1:

Suggest 1: you should not exclude letters to the editor, abstracts of conferences, etc. from the analysis - they may contain very valuable original data that have not yet been published and may not be published further at all

Suggest 2: you should not limit yourself to English-language articles - modern free. online translators are able to provide translation into English at an acceptable level; However, I do not think that not including these works significantly affected the results.

Suggest 3: I would include the data of the meta-analysis of complications in the. abstract, the phrase "Two authors conducted the literature screening, data. extraction, and risk assessment of bias." does not carry important information and can be removed from the abstract

Suggest 4: if data are available, I recommend you to conduct a meta-analysis of the efficacy and safety of this intervention at different stages of cancer and with different concomitant therapy

Response:

1. According to the recommendation of reviewer #1, we reformulated the search strategy which included letters to the editor and abstracts of

conferences and searched two new articles and performed the meta-analysis;

2. We are sorry that we did not find non-English articles;
3. In the abstract, we deleted "Two authors conducted the literature screening, data extraction, and risk assessment of bias" and added the data of the meta-analysis of complications.
4. Due to the lack of original data, we cannot conduct a meta-analysis of the efficacy and safety of this intervention at different stages of cancer and with different concomitant therapy

Science editor comments:

Suggest 1: The authors need to provide the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement.

Suggest 2: The highest single-source similarity index in the CrossCheck report showed to be 6%. According to our policy, the overall similarity index should be less than 30%, and the single-source similarity should be less than 5%. Please rephrase these repeated sentences.

Suggest 3: I found no "Author contribution" section. Please provide the author contributions;

Suggest 4: I found no "Core Tip" section. Please provide the Core Tip;

Suggest 5: I found the authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s);

Suggest 6: I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;

Suggest 7: I found the authors did not add the PMID and DOI in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation

numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout;

Suggest 8: I found the authors did not write the “article highlight” section.

Please write the “article highlights” section at the end of the main text;

Suggest 9: The author should number the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text. The reference numbers will be superscripted in square brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content or after the cited author’s name, with no spaces.

Response:

1. We have uploaded the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement to the F6Publishing system;
2. We have rephrased the repeated sentences to ensure the single-source similarity should be less than 5%;
3. We have provided the author contribution to the original article;
4. We have added core tips to the original article;
5. We have uploaded the approved grant application form to the F6Publishing system;
6. We uploaded the original figure documents and edited the reference using the reference auto-analyser;
7. We have written the “article highlight” at the end of the main text;
8. We have numbered the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text;
9. The reference numbers were superscripted in square brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content or after the cited author’s name, with no spaces;
10. Due to the title cannot exceed 18 words, I changed “efficacy and safety of intraoperative radiotherapy in rectal cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials and observational studies” to “Efficacy and safety of intraoperative radiotherapy in rectal cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis”.

Thank you and all the reviews for the kind advice.

Sincerely yours,

Bin Liu and Hui Cai