

ANSWERING REVIEWERS

December 6, 2013



Re: Manuscript 6783 – Management of borderline and locally advanced pancreatic cancer: where do we stand?

Editors,

Thank you for reviewing our manuscript. We are pleased that the manuscript was favorably reviewed and accepted for publication. We believe that the reviewers' comments and the corresponding responses will serve only to strengthen the manuscript.

Reviewer 1: No revisions.

We thank the their for their comments.

Reviewer 2:

1: The section of diagnosis of LAPC seems a little simple. John Hopkins Hospital is quite famous in the field of pancreatic cancer, could the authors provide more pictures to show CT, MRI, EUS and laparoscopy in the diagnosis of LAPC in addition to Figure 1

We agree with the reviewer and appreciate the comments. We have supplemented the text with additional molecular hypotheses to explain the unique biological behavior of LAPC. We have also added a representative MRI image (Figure 2), to complement the already submitted CT (Figure 1).

2: "Iniitally Unresectable" should be "Initially Unresectable".

We agree with the reviewer and the spelling error has been fixed.

3. The authors list many chemotherapy regimens for LAPC, it would be better if they list these regimens in several tables

We agree with the reviewer and have added a table of recent chemotherapy trials used in the management of unresectable LAPC.

4. It would be better if they provide a current LAPC treatment flowchart of the John Hopkins Hospital.

We agree with the reviewer and have added a summary statement to the conclusion of the review outlining our treatment model.

5. Treatment of LAPC is a real challenge, emergences of novel therapies have shown promises for this devastating disease. In this review, the authors showed us locoregional therapy with irreversible electroporation, which may have a promise in downstaging and prolonging survival. Could the authors provide more pictures about irreversible electroporation, such as schematic diagram, devices, or intraoperative photograph.

We agree with the reviewer and have added an additional image (Figure 5) demonstrating the power/generator device we use. Additionally, we have a representative image of IRE being used intraoperatively in Figure 4.

6. Could the authors discuss something about individual therapy for LAPC?

We agree with the reviewer, that individual therapy for LAPC is necessary to the successful management of LAPC. It is our mantra to address this concern in our multi-disciplinary conference where we take into account all individual patient concerns, including but not limited to social issues, comorbidities, and primary tumor characteristics, to name a few. Though we did not make this a focus of our manuscript, it is discussed.

Thank you for your thoughtful comments,

Sincerely,

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