

Dear Reviewers,

We are grateful for your insightful comments on our manuscript titled “Fascia- versus vessel-oriented lateral lymph node dissection for rectal cancer: Short-term outcomes and prognosis from a 7-year single-center experience” (Manuscript NO: 83478). We appreciate your valuable feedback, which has helped us to enhance the quality of the manuscript. We have carefully considered each of your comments and have made appropriate revisions to address them. The revised version of the manuscript has been uploaded to the “Supplementary Material” section in F6Publishing system.

Your expert comments have been instrumental in refining our research and improving the clarity of our arguments. We sincerely hope that the revisions we have made meet with your approval and satisfy the requirements for publication in the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery. If you have any further queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wei Zhao and Qian Liu

Replies to Reviewer 1

Thank you for your review and feedback on our study. We acknowledge that our study has limitations, including a relatively small sample size. We agree that further studies with a larger number of patients are needed to confirm our findings. We have added a discussion of this limitation to several sections of the revised manuscript, including the “Discussion”, “Limits of the study”, and “Article highlights” sections, as you suggested (line 38 to 40, page 8; line 7 to 10, page 9; line 20 to 21, page 9; line 13 to 15, page 10; line 24 to 25, page 10).

Replies to Reviewer 2

Thank you for your positive feedback on our manuscript. We are pleased to hear that you found our study interesting and well-done.