

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 53826

**Title:** Prognostic role of ultrasonography staging in patients with anal cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 03011144

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** BM BCh, DNB

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** India

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-12-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Le Zhang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-02-27 11:54

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-03-02 08:28

**Review time:** 3 Days and 20 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](http://www.wjgnet.com)

- Was sample size calculated? - Of 63 patients, why only 48 underwent endoscopic us? Did the others not meet the inclusion criteria? - As all patients underwent MRI, were they compared with sonographic findings? - Could the discrepancy between staging relate to incorrect clinical staging? - Obvious restricted role of sonography in identification of metastases has not been pointed out - As sonography is operator dependent, and requires training, are they not limiting factors? - Conclusion is not based on data from the manuscript ("..could help to a more correct identification of risk factors for anal cancer ") - References are not according to standard format

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 53826

**Title:** Prognostic role of ultrasonography staging in patients with anal cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 02733628

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor, Doctor, Surgeon

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Turkey

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-12-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jie Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-03-17 17:46

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-03-17 18:38

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](http://www.wjgnet.com)

Dear Authors, Thank you for sharing your experiences and article entitled “Prognostic role of ultrasonographic staging in patients with anal cancer” Role of ultrasound on staging of anal SCC is very important and all the professionals should read your experiences on staging of anal SCC. You should check article on English grammar rule, scientific writing and punctuation, there are many. Figures and tables should be simplified and focused on the subject. They should be comparing the endoscopic ultrasound staging and clinical staging in clinical characteristics and in analysis of factors influencing disease-free survival. The goal of this article is to demonstrate the role of ultrasound on staging of anal SCC, not the factors that affect DFS such as age, smoke, ASA and ex. Please simplify the article, tables and figures in these options. Sincerely

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 53826

**Title:** Prognostic role of ultrasonography staging in patients with anal cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 02687374

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-12-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jie Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-03-18 08:49

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-03-24 12:33

**Review time:** 6 Days and 3 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](http://www.wjgnet.com)

This study retrospectively analyzed the preoperative ultrasound classification and clinical AJCC staging and postoperative survival of 48 patients with anal cancer treated by San Raffaele Scientific Institute between 2007 and 2017. And the authors concluded that the ultrasound staging system is significantly associated with prognosis and could help to a more correct identification of risk factors for anal cancer patients. However, I think the design of this study is slightly simpler and the conclusions are rough, so the clinical guidance of this study is not very significant. I suppose that whether the authors could establish a model to assess the survival of patients by ultrasound staging, adding clinical staging and ASA scores if necessary. For example, how long will the patients of ultrasound T1-2 staging live, and how will the anal cancer of ultrasound T3-4 staging affect a patient's survival time? I suggest that the authors could consider our suggestions and look forward to more meaningful research results.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 53826

**Title:** Prognostic role of ultrasonography staging in patients with anal cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 03011144

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** BM BCh, DNB

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** India

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-12-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ying Dou

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-05-19 05:54

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-05-19 06:05

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Excellent [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Very good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: Good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Fair [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Priority publishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Accept (High priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Accept (General priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Minor revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Major revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="radio"/> ] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript has been satisfactorily revised incorporating the necessary changes.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 53826

**Title:** Prognostic role of ultrasonography staging in patients with anal cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 02687374

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-12-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ying Dou

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-05-19 14:16

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-05-20 23:21

**Review time:** 1 Day and 9 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

After the author's interpretation for our review manuscript and necessary modifications,



I think the results of this study may have some guiding significance for clinical prediction. Therefore, I recommend accepting this manuscript.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

**Manuscript NO:** 53826

**Title:** Prognostic role of ultrasonography staging in patients with anal cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 02733628

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor, Doctor, Surgeon

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Turkey

**Author's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Manuscript submission date:** 2019-12-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Ying Dou

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-05-20 16:37

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-05-21 03:55

**Review time:** 11 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear author, Thank you for sharing your article entitled "Prognostic role of



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
**https://**[www.wjgnet.com](http://www.wjgnet.com)

ultrasonographic staging in patients with anal cancer” The article should be revised on medical article writing rules. Abbreviations should be checked. Sentences written by authors in red color should be corrected. Authors compare the sphincter invasiveness by cancer determined by anal US to tumor size determined by anal MR and effect on prognosis of anal cancer. In fact they compare different things. MR can also show anal sphincter invasiveness. In addition they grouped the patients up to US found N stages although they wrote that US could not see all the area LN metastases could be. There is really difference in the number of metastatic LNs between US found and MR found. They found different groups according to uT, ASA and LN metastasis. They should describe these groups more and even give their prognostic values with comparing AJCC on tables and I think those differences in prognosis due to ASA score. Authors should discuss on these points. Tables have no meanings. They should be restructured.

Sincerely