

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

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***Retrospective Cohort Study***

**Scientific Research Process**

**Ethical statement:**

This study was performed in accordance to the ethical standards of the institutional and national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments. This study was exempted from informed consent according to Dutch regulations. This was a retrospective evaluation of a clinical algorithm implying no other than established techniques, which was used during the study period. The data were collected from medical reports. It was not an interventional study. <http://www.ccmo.nl/en/non-wmo-research>.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and lines, likely representing the initials 'GB'.

Guus M.J. Bökkerink, MD, corresponding author

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