

June 03, 2021

Editor-in-Chief

World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery

Dear Editor-in-Chief:

We hereby submit the revised version of our manuscript (64856) titled “Optimal postoperative surveillance strategies for stage III colorectal cancer” to be considered for publication in *Cancers*. We would like to express our sincere thanks to you and the reviewers for your thorough review of our manuscript and for the opportunity to submit a revised and improved version. We completely agree with reviewers’ pertinent comments. We believe that we have considerably improved our manuscript by addressing the concerns that were raised.

We have included additional content in accordance with the comments. Below this letter, we have provided point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ comments. Changes in the revised manuscript are indicated in red font.

We hope that you find the current version of the manuscript suitable for publication in your journal. We will certainly be willing to make additional changes should they be required.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

In J. Park, MD, PhD

Specific comments:

1. The Abstract needs to be critically revised and concise.

Answer: We revised and concised the abstract.

2. Please add more strong keywords.

Answer: We added and revised the keywords.

3. Page 3: Authors are advised to revise the introduction section carefully and add more data to support the problem statement and make a connection between each paragraph. Authors jumped from one discussion to another without any authentic information, please revise it. The introduction section should contain a minimum of 500 words.

Answer: Thank you for your commnets. We revise introduction to provide more comprehensive information to support problem statement.

4. Page 4: What is the research gap and novelty of the present study?

Answer: This study includes a large number of patients. It also targeted patients who underwent surveillance under guidelines. In addition, it has the advantage of reflecting the practical aspect that the surveillance interval is different depending on the risk of recurrence.

5. Page 4: Why authors select too old data for study?

Answer: Old data were included because patients who had completed sufficient follow-up observations at the time of design of this study were included in this study. Further research on long term outcome is planned by adding later data.

6. Page 9: The authors are advised to add a reference in the statistics section.

Answer: We added references in the statistics section.

7. Page 10: "Patients who experienced recurrence were divided into those with intra-abdominal recurrence and those with intra-thoracic recurrence." Please revise the sentence.

Answer: We revised the sentence.

8. The conclusion section should be in a single paragraph and contain the main findings and future recommendations.

Answer: We rewrote conclusion section as single paragraph to include main findings and future diections for research of optimal surveillance in colorectal cancer.

9. Figures and Tables: Captions need to be revised.

Answer: We revised the captions

10. The headings need to be revised especially the methodology section.

Answer: We revised the headings of methodology section.

11. Please cross-reference all the tables and figures.

Answer: We did cross-reference for all the tables and figures.

12. The authors are advised to insert recently published data for discussion, there are many 90s references.

Answer: We carefully find more recent references and tried to include recent publications as much as we can. We only included 90s references in case we could not find out proper recent references.

13. The authors are advised to convert few tables into figures for better understanding.

Answer: We convert table 2 as figure. The Table 1,3,4,5 are indicating characteristics and risk analysis. These are not suitable for figures and remained as table. We made table 4,5 be more clear.

14. The authors did not provide original pictures. 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.

Answer: We provided original PPTx for figures.

15. PMID and DOI numbers are missing 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.

Answer: We revise references according to guideline including authors, PMID and DOI.

16. The "Article Highlights" section is missing. Please add the "Article Highlights" section at the end of the main text.

Answer: We provided Article Highlights.

Sincerely,

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