

**Reviewer's code:** 03645518

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The author compared the efficacy of short versus long duration radiotherapy plus chemotherapy for the treatment of advanced rectal cancer before surgery. It was found that short duration radiotherapy combined with chemotherapy was superior to long duration radiotherapy combined with chemotherapy without causing major safety events. This may add new data to the treatment options. Overall, this study is well designed, and the results are interesting. The manuscript was well organized and the points of view were well presented. Minor comments: 1. The manuscript requires a minor editing. Some minor language polishing should be corrected. 2. The abstract is too long. The author should try to shorten the abstract. 3 Tables should be checked and edited carefully.

**Answer:** Thank you for your comments. We revised the manuscript carefully according to your comments.

1. We carefully checked and proofed the manuscript, and the language polishing was revised.
2. The abstract was shortening accordingly.
- 3, The Tables are checked and revised.

**Reviewer's code:** 03013758

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The "Efficacy and safety of short duration radiotherapy combined with chemotherapy for advanced rectal cancer" was a manuscript on rectal cancer treatment. It raised a question that how the duration and dosage of the treatment influence the treatment efficacy when the combined chemotherapy and radiation therapy was used. At last, the author proved short duration radiotherapy was a little better. Patient information, treatment process, the outcome measures were clearly described in the manuscript and data and tables used could well support the conclusion (The subtitle of conclusion is

missing, please add it). Since the author tested the expression of Runx3 and Ki-67 after the treatment, its association with the efficacy and outcomes of the treatment should be further declared.

**Answer:** Thank you for your comments. We revised the manuscript carefully according to your comments: (1) The Subtitle of conclusion was added; (2) The association between the efficacy and outcomes of the treatment for Runx3 and Ki-67 expression should be further declared in the discussion.