

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 48288

Title: Lateral lymph node dissection for low rectal cancer: Is it necessary?

Reviewer's code: 02441100

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-06 08:07

Reviewer performed review: 2019-05-07 08:59

Review time: 1 Day

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This editorial highlights the most recent advances in a debated topic, i.e. the optimal extension of pelvic lymphadenectomy in advanced low rectal carcinoma. The background, present status and significance of the study are adequately described as well as the perspectives. The References are updated. I think this is an interesting



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7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
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document on the current status of pelvic lymphadenectomy (Total mesorectal excision
- lateral pelvic lymphadenectomy) in low rectal cancer in the World.

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

Google Search:

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ No

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 48288

Title: Lateral lymph node dissection for low rectal cancer: Is it necessary?

Reviewer's code: 03001591

Reviewer's country: Poland

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-05 13:59

Reviewer performed review: 2019-05-08 07:50

Review time: 2 Days and 17 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

no comments

INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 48288

Title: Lateral lymph node dissection for low rectal cancer: Is it necessary?

Reviewer's code: 03004110

Reviewer's country: Italy

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-05 17:41

Reviewer performed review: 2019-05-15 08:23

Review time: 9 Days and 14 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I appreciate the work done. The topic is interesting and Worth of investigation.

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BPG Search:

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- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 48288

Title: Lateral lymph node dissection for low rectal cancer: Is it necessary?

Reviewer's code: 02554808

Reviewer's country: Romania

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-07 19:12

Reviewer performed review: 2019-05-15 20:21

Review time: 8 Days and 1 Hour

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
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			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper covers an interesting area of rectal cancer surgery, namely dissection of the pelvic side lymph-nodes. Overall, the article is well written, offers a wide view of the literature on this topic and has minor phrasing and spelling errors. However, the paper lacks a personal interpretation of data and, at the end, the reader can not really draw a



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final conclusion since the results of the literature presented are so different. The paper is in this sense more of a presentation of the data from the literature, without too much of an integration of this data towards a recommendation for the clinical practice. Specific questions that I believe should be addressed are listed in the comments to the authors.

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BPG Search:

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- ☐ No

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 48288

Title: Lateral lymph node dissection for low rectal cancer: Is it necessary?

Reviewer's code: 02497698

Reviewer's country: Spain

Science editor: Jia-Ping Yan

Reviewer accepted review: 2019-05-06 06:35

Reviewer performed review: 2019-05-16 16:33

Review time: 10 Days and 9 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
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			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The article entitled "Lateral lymph node dissection for low rectal cancer: It is necessary?" (Christou N. et al.) is a really well written review article focused on the different approaches for the treatment of rectal cancer spreading to the lateral lymph nodes. Considered as a local disease, Japanese guidelines recommend a surgical approach (total

mesorectal scission plus lateral lymph node dissection, TME+LLND) with or without neoadjuvant treatment. However, guidelines from western countries consider this unresectable, advanced staged cancer and recommend TME plus radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The recently introduced nerve-preserving techniques have limited the neurological complications of LLD that were the main problem for the surgical approach. Recent studies suggest that local recurrences are less frequent in patients treated with TME+LLND than in patients treated with TME, but the overall benefits have yet to be demonstrated. This review suggest that more studies are needed even to determine the real prevalence of metastatic LLN. Moreover, considering the negative impact of LLND on the overall survival for rectal cancer patients, the authors also concluded that further research focused on identification of candidates for LLND is clearly necessary. This article helps to understand the actual discrepancies among studies and alert about the urgent necessity of research on this field. I definitively recommend its publication.

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