

ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2429-review.doc).

Title: Insulin-like growth factor receptor-1 overexpression is associated with poor response of rectal cancers to radiotherapy

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 9231

Reviewed by 00045997

Wu and colleagues investigated the relationship between insulin-like growth factor-1 expression and preoperative response of radiotherapy in rectal cancers. They showed IGF-1R overexpression was significantly correlated with a poor response to radiotherapy, from the results of IHC and RT-PCR. Although the results look informative to the gastroenterologists, a number of points need clarifying and certain statements require further justification. These are given below.

Major 1. How many samples were taken before the radiotherapy? Authors are encouraged to show if there is heterogeneity of IGF-1R expression in rectal cancer.

Answer: 87 samples were taken before the radiotherapy, Immunohistochemistry showed diffuse IGF-1R staining on rectal cancer cells with various degrees of signal density. We think there is heterogeneity of IGF-1R expression in rectal cancer.

2. In Discussion, authors described that ‘all 1 subjects with negative IGF-1R expression showed good response to radiotherapy (8 cases of RCRG1 and 3 cases of RCRG2)’, which seems inconsistent with the Table 2. 3. As authors addressed, there could be an up-regulation of IGF-1R protein in remaining cancer cells. However, considering heterogeneity of IGF-1R, there also could be another aspect; IGF-1R expressing cells did not respond to the radiotherapy resulting in that residual tumor cells showed high expression of IGF-1R.

Answer: Thank u for your advise. It should be “all 10 subjects with negative IGF-1R expression showed good response to radiotherapy (8 cases of RCRG1 and 2 cases of RCRG2)” .We have corrected it.

Thank u very much for this suggestion. We agreed that there also could be another aspect: IGF-1R high expressing cells did not respond to the radiotherapy resulting in that residual tumor cells showed high expression of IGF-1R. These also showed the IGF-1R hyperexpressed part of tumor may be the part with better tolerance to radiation. We have mentioned it in the disscusion.

Minor 1. What is the difference in role between these two pictures in Fig.3? Are both figures necessary?

Answer: There is no difference in role between these two pictures in Fig.3, just the difference of enlargement factor. We just wanted to show the cancer nest in the right picture(X100).

2. Ref 10 does not seem to meet the instruction. Please make sure.

Answer: Yes, We are sure.

Reviewed by 00036825

In the Table 2 it is required to involve cTNM stages to make the results more clear for the clinical practice.

Answer: Yes, Thank u for your advice. Table 2 is about the Relationship between IGF-1R expression on pre-radiation biopsy specimens and tumour radiosensitivity in rectal carcinoma. As for the cTNM stages, We have mentioned it in the written words in this article.

Reviewed by 00042073

None.