

Answer for reviewers: 64606- Evaluating the benefit of adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with ypT0–1 rectal cancer treated with preoperative chemoradiotherapy.

We thank you and the reviewers for your thoughtful suggestions and insights. The manuscript has benefited from these insightful suggestions. I look forward to working with you and the reviewers to move this manuscript closer to publication in World Journal of Gastrointestinal surgery.

The manuscript has been rechecked and the necessary changes have been made in accordance with the reviewers' suggestions.

We hope that revised version is fit for publications;

Reviewer 1 comments to Authors :

Congratulations for your work. Your study is very important for clinical practice, since it is one question of our daily basis. I really appreciated to read the manuscript, it is very clear, not too long, concise, and contain applicable knowledge. I only have one question: how do you explain that patients who did adjuvant chemotherapy had higher recurrence rate?

(Answer)

I appreciate your kind comments.

Regarding the higher recurrence rate in adjuvant chemotherapy group might be explained by the limitation caused by design of this study. This study is retrospective study and the characteristics of each group cannot be controlled, although clinicopathological characteristics are not statistically significant. The proportion of patients with ypN+ stage was more in ACTx group than No ACTx group (31 vs. 2, p=0.201). The difference of ypN+ stage may affect the recurrence rate of each treatment group, especially distant metastasis. If randomization is possible for nodal involvement, it would result in more precise research results. Therefore, further research should be done in manner with prospective, large-scale, randomized trials to evaluate the oncologic benefit of adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with early post-treatment stage rectal cancer with a good prognosis.

Comments from scientific editor

Editor 1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a retrospective study of the evaluating the survival benefit of adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with ypT0–1 rectal cancer after preoperative chemoradiotherapy and surgical resection. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. (1) Classification: Grade B; (2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: This study is very important for clinical practice, since it is one question of our daily basis. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered; (3) Format: There are 4 tables and 3 figures; (4) References: A total of 37 references are cited, including 10 references published in the last 3 years; (5) **Self-cited references: There are 5 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations (i.e. those that are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript) and remove all other improper self-citations. If the authors fail to address the critical issue of self-citation, the editing process of this manuscript will be terminated; and (6) References recommendations: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself**

(themselves), please send the peer reviewer's ID number to editorialoffice@wjgnet.com. The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately.

(Answer for comment 1-5, 1-6) I revised reference and reduce self-cited refernces as 2. These 2 references (reference 33, 37) are used to described our previous study in manuscript.

2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade A. A language editing certificate issued by Editage was provided. 3 Academic norms and rules: The authors provided the Biostatistics Review Certificate, the Institutional Review Board Approval Form. Written informed consent was waived. No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. No financial support was obtained for the study. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. 5 Issues raised: **(1) The title is too long, and it should be no more than 18 words;**

(Answer for comment 5-1) I revised title as "Evaluating the benefit of adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with ypT0–1 rectal cancer treated with preoperative chemoradiotherapy"

(2) 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; and

(Answer for comment 5-2) I will submit original figure as PPT in revised version.

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

(Answer for comment 5-3) I added article highlights section..

6 Recommendation: Conditional acceptance.