

Dear Prof. Wang and the reviewer,

We are grateful for your kind suggestions on our revised manuscript. According to your suggestions, we have carefully reviewed the entire manuscript and ensured that not only the error advised by the reviewer but others have been corrected. Changes are shown in the manuscript in yellow and in red in the following answer part.

#### ANSWERS

1. The title is too complicated for the general readership. Please simplify e.g. Surgical vs surgical/radiotherapy treatment of dpT3-4N0-3M0 esophageal cancer. Differences in survival, recurrence and metastasis. or similar

**Answer:** We are grateful for your kind advice. The title has been simplified as you can see in the title page--- **Differences in the failure Patterns of pT3-4N0-3M0 Esophageal Cancer with surgery vs surgery/radiotherapy.**

2. On page 7 the authors stated “Chemotherapy. After surgery or radiotherapy was completed, chemotherapy was scheduled intravenously with cisplatin (25 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d, d1–3) and 5-fluorouracil (5-Fu, 600 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d, d1–5) or paclitaxel (135-175 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d, d1) for four cycles with an interval of 3-4 weeks. Clearly an explanation is required whether this treatment was applied to all patients in this study.

**Answer:** Thanks for your advice. It’s necessary to describe the chemotherapy treatment. We also add the detail of this treatment in the updated manuscript, “**There were 60.7% patients received sequential chemotherapy after radiotherapy completed. Others who declined or could not tolerate did not receive chemotherapy. There was no difference in receiving chemotherapy between S arm and S+R arm.**”.

3. In Figures 2-4 the units for vertical -Y axis should be clearly spelled out the units and figure legends should be more precisely worded. In Figure 2 celiac is misspelled.

**Answer:** Thank you for your kind suggestion. We changed the misspelled word from “**celica**” to “**celiac**” and added Y-axis notation to the figures 2-4—“**Vertical -Y axis represents number of patients (figure 2); Vertical -Y axis represents DFS rate (figure 3 and 4)**”.

4. The paper requires careful stylistic and linguistic revisions. For example, the statement “All authors helped to perform the research” would imply that someone

else performed the main research and authors only helped. I suggest to reword this statement, e.g. all authors participated in this research and list the capacity.

**Answer:** We have described every authors' contribution in detail in the title page.

“All authors participated in this research. Zeng Y and Cai XW manuscript writing, patients collection and data analysis; Yu W, Yu WW, Liu Qi, Wang JM, Liu J, Zhu ZF and Zhao WX patients collection and follow-up visit; Fu XL and Cai XW, patients collection and research design. And the statistical methods of this study were reviewed by Yuan Liu.”

Once again, thanks for your kind advice again! We hope that we have got what you have advised.

Yours sincerely,

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