

ANSWERS TO THE REVIEWERS AND EDITOR

January 4, 2014

Dear Editor,



Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 15745-REVIEW_MOUNTZIOS.doc).

Title: Optimal management of the elderly patient with Head and Neck Cancer: Issues regarding surgery, irradiation and chemotherapy

Author: Giannis Mountzios

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 15745

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format of the whole manuscript has been updated according to the Journal style guidelines

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers:

(1) The length of the manuscript has been substantially decreased, according to the Reviewer's suggestion, from **8, 291** words to **5,626** words, so that it is still comprehensive but more concise, dense and clear. Accordingly, the number of references has been reduced from **149** to **107** but is still over 100 as requested by the Journal. The Figure 1 has been also removed.

(2) At the end of the "Surgery-Reconstructive surgery" session, a short reference to pedicled flaps as compared to free flaps and the pertinent two references (Ref. 52 and 53) were added.

(3) All references have been edited so as to respect the progressive enumeration of the manuscript

(4) A separate "**Methods Section**" has been included in the revised manuscript, as requested by the Reviewer, describing the Research process (Search engines, inclusion and exclusion criteria, key words, etc). A new Figure (New Figure 1) was also added illustrating the research process strategy

(5) A number of important references that were missing from the reference list were added in the revised paper and replaced many old references that were omitted. Please see the new References **7, 32, 52, 53, 55** and **84** of the Revised manuscript.

3. All references within the text were edited according to the Journal style (Superscript square brackets). Please note however that since the reference list was made using the ENDNOTE program, it is impossible for me to edit now all 107 references in the reference list according to the Journal guidelines (all authors, PMID, DOI etc). I would like to inform you that there was NO official recommendation by the Journal not to use the ENDNOTE program when I was preparing the manuscript and it would be extremely time-consuming and exhausting for me now to re-edit manually all references. I would strongly suggest this procedure to be performed by the publishing house which has special software for these issues, as I have done with many other Journals where I have published. Otherwise I regret to be forced to withdraw the manuscript **before online publication** and submit it elsewhere.

4. Finally, I would like to inform you that I have recently co-authored a pertinent Review in an Open access Journal not indexed in PUBMED called "Head and Neck Oncology" (**Mountzios G, Soutati A, Syrigos K. Multidisciplinary approach of head and neck cancer in the elderly: an update. Head Neck Oncol. 2013 Feb 27;5(3):27.**). Although the topics of the two Reviews are not identical, some degree of overlapping between the two manuscripts is unavoidable, since they cover similar topics. I would like to emphasize that I **have used a completely different research methodology, strategic approach and content selection for the current Review** and I have made every possible effort for this manuscript to be **scientifically and syntactically independent** from the recent one published in *Head and Neck Oncology*. Nevertheless, since the two Reviews deal with similar topics, if the editor feels that issues of redundant publication or even self-plagiarism might arise (although this is not the case), please let me know and I will withdraw the manuscript before online publication.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology* and I am looking forward to your reply

Sincerely yours,

Giannis Mountzios

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