

Response letter

Dear Editor

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 18735

Thank you for your and reviewers' comments. We have revised the manuscript accordingly and provided the list of corrections below:

1. Department, city and post codes included in author affiliations.
2. Fax and telephone provided.
3. Citation numbers changed to bracketed superscript and placed immediately at the end of the last word.
4. Mistake 'neoaduvant' corrected to 'neoadjuvant' on page 5.
5. Example of standard postoperative chemotherapy and surgical technique (total mesorectal excision) regimes is given in the introduction.
6. Interpretation of reference 6 on page 1 is corrected. Longer survival deleted and replaced with lower local recurrence rates.
7. Reference 7 removed and replaced with Boland et al. reference (no
8. The focus of the paper is made clearer by abolishing the mixing of neoadjuvant chemotherapy with chemoradiotherapy.
9. The use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy was replaced with neoadjuvant (chemo)radiotherapy as all the studies of the efficacy of postoperative chemotherapy do not include neoadjuvant chemotherapy group.
10. Sentence on page 4, paragraph 2 contains the statement summarising the evidence from reference 11, 12 and 13 and not 12 only.
11. The role of CT and inappropriate LN staging was corrected to neoadjuvant (chemo)radiotherapy from neoadjuvant chemotherapy.
12. 'Tumour growth factor-alpha' was corrected to 'transforming growth factor-alpha'.
13. 'Novel agents' heading was removed and replaced with 'Irinotecan and biological agents'
14. DOI and PMID numbers where retrieved, where available, and included in the references.
15. 'Figure 3' changed to 'figure 2'.
16. Audio core tip is included in the submission.
17. Crosscheck was not performed due to inability to access, however it was agreed that it will be crossed checked by the journal (correspondence with Jin-Lei Wang).
18. Grammar and punctuation mistakes were corrected and general polishing of the manuscript was done.

Yours sincerely,  
Kristijonas Milinis