

March 31st, 2015.

Title: Rectal cancer: an evidence-based update for primary care providers
Authors: Wolfgang B. Gaertner, Mary R. Kwaan, Robert D. Madoff, Genevieve B. Melton.
Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology
ESPS Manuscript NO: 16377

Dear editor and reviewers,

Thank you for your kind and helpful comments and suggestions. Below you will find the specific answers to the points raised by the reviewers and editors. Changes and additions are highlighted in yellow.

Reviewer

This review is well organized and written. It is acceptable except some minor points:

1. MRI is an important imaging method of rectal cancer. However, the advances on it is not well described, such as DWI-MRI,DCE-MRI.

Response: a paragraph regarding the advances of MRI, specifically DWI and DCE, was added to the "Radiologic Evaluation" section.

2. In the neoadjuvant treatment issue, the new strategy with neoadjuvant chemo alone compared to neoadjuvant CRT is proposed in recent years. However, this review does not mention this important advance in neoadjuvant therapy of rectal cancer.

Response: a paragraph regarding the role and impact of neoadjuvant chemotherapy alone was added to the "Treatment" section.

Editor

- Postal code added to title page.
- Title reduced to <12 words.
- A separate conflict of interests document has been signed and provided.
- Audio core tip has been provided.
- Abstract was modified to be >200 words.
- Reference numbers were re-formatted throughout the manuscript.
- Unfortunately I do not have a decomposable format for the figures.
- The reference list has been re-formatted.

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

Wolfgang Gaertner, MD, MSc.