

Dear sir/Madam,

I am submitting a revised version of my invited editorial entitled: "Immune blockade inhibitors and the radiation abscopal effect in gastrointestinal cancers" for publication in the World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology.

Reviewers' comments (in red) have been taken into consideration and changes made as follows:

Very concise editorial into immune check point inhibitors. Perhaps a mention of the complications associated with use of these such as check point colitis will be useful

I thank the reviewer for his/her comments. A brief discussion of immune adverse effects has been added in the second paragraph of the introduction, as per the reviewer's suggestion.

This is a well written editorial reviewing the current available data in regards to the use of immunotherapy in GI cancers and its limitations in addition to providing hypothesis generating information on how the abscopal effect of radiation may be used to improve the immune effect of these agents. This is definitely becoming an increasing area of interest in the management of GI cancers (as well as other malignancies)

I thank the reviewer for his/her comments.

In general, this editorial is well prepared and no serious mistake noted. Congratulation for this nice work.

I thank the reviewer for his/her comments.

Very well written invited editorial on immune checkpoint inhibitors and radiation. The author reviews the currently available data including both clinical data as well as immunologic translational data. Minor suggestions include 1) when describing the abscopal effect in the second to last paragraph in the introduction the author states it is the result of micro-environmental inflammatory changes that are created and sustained by the irradiated cells. This perhaps could be revised to more accurately describe the phenomenon of which local treatment with radiation augments the immunity and releases neo-antigens stimulating the immune system to treat tumors with similar antigens in distant locations. I felt the current wording was awkward. 2) First paragraph of the Immune blockade inhibition in gastrointestinal cancers subheading. there is a statement describing the trial and the author states the trial was "contacted" in three Asian countries. Should be "conducted" in three Asian countries. Otherwise, excellent paper, I liked the inclusion of EBV-related gastric cancer.

Regarding the points raised by the reviewer: 1) The phrase has been re-written as per the reviewer's suggestions. 2) Corrected. In addition spelling and grammar have been rechecked throughout the manuscript.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ioannis A. Voutsadakis, MD, PhD