Supplementary Table 1 Covariate balance before and after propensity score matching (*n* = 100)[a]

Variable	Before Matching			After Matching		
	nCRT(n=27)	nCT(n=427)	SMD	nCRT(n=25)	nCT(n=75)	SMD
Sex (male, %)	82.1%	76.3%	0.143	84.0%	81.3%	0.070
Age(years),mean (SD)	58.79(11.13)	58.08(10.35)	0.066	59.52 (10.99)	59.48 (9.71)	0.004
BMI (kg/m2), mean (SD)	23.65 (2.88)	24.04 (3.09)	0.132	23.75 (2.74)	24.17 (2.56)	0.160
Smoking history (yes, %)	64.3%	51.4%	0.261	64.0%	62.7%	0.027
Tumor location, mean (SD)	1.32 (0.55)	1.67 (0.81)	0.504	1.36 (0.57)	1.33 (0.62)	0.045
Clinical T stage, mean (SD)	3.50 (0.79)	3.77 (0.49)	0.402	3.72 (0.46)	3.71 (0.49)	0.028
Clinical N stage, mean (SD)	0.93 (0.26)	0.94 (0.24)	0.041	0.92 (0.28)	0.93 (0.25)	0.050

SMD, standardized mean difference. [a]The 100 matched patients included one nCT patient who was subsequently excluded from the final analysis due to missing data on postoperative complications and pathological response, resulting in 99 patients.

Supplementary Table 2 BMI-adjusted and sensitivity analysis for overall postoperative complications (nCRT vs nCT) (*n* = 99)[a]

Analysis	OR (95%CI)	*P* value
Unadjusted	1.02(0.39–2.71)	0.967
BMI-adjusted	1.01(0.37–2.71)	0.989

BMI category (<25 vs ≥25 kg/m²)	1.03(0.39–2.73)	0.959
Excluding extreme BMI (<18.5 or >30 kg/m²)	1.01(0.37–2.71)	0.989

[a]analysis were performed in the final analytic cohort of 99 patients after exclusion of one matched patient with missing data on postoperative complications.