Dear Editor,

Thank you for forwarding the comments from both reviewers. We are grateful for their constructive feedback and are pleased to hear that they find our manuscript of high quality and worthy of publication. We have carefully considered all the points raised by both reviewers and have made the necessary revisions as follows:

For Reviewer 1:

1. We have expanded the introduction section to describe the inadequacies of conventional total mesorectal excision, providing a more comprehensive background for the eight-zone dissection strategy.

2. We have modified the color and size of the text in the images to ensure better readability and clarity.

3. We have revised the figure legends to include more detailed information, ensuring that the main findings are clearly presented in this section.

4. We have reviewed the language throughout the manuscript, paying attention to fluency and coherence. We have avoided using too many complex sentences and long paragraphs, making the text easier to read and understand.

For Reviewer 2:

1. We apologize for the oversight in the Core tip section. We have now added a concise summary of the main findings and contributions of our study to this section.

2. We have revised the discussion section to separate the discussion of results from the conclusions. This ensures a clear and logical flow of ideas, making it easier for readers to understand the implications of our findings.

3. We have reviewed the language throughout the manuscript, making improvements to ensure clarity and readability.

We are grateful for the valuable suggestions provided by both reviewers, which have helped us refine our manuscript. We believe that the revised version now meets the high standards required for publication in your esteemed journal.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yan-Lei Wang