Author's response to reviews

Title: Local and distant recurrences in rectal cancer patients are predicted by the nonspecific immune respons; specific immune respons has only a systemic effect

Authors:

Iris D Nagtegaal (I.Nagtegaal@pathol.azn.nl)
Corrie AM Marijnen (marijnen@lumc.nl)
Elma Klein Kranenburg (KleinKrane@lumc.nl)
Adri A Mulder-Stapel (a.a.mulder-stapel@lumc.nl)
Jo Hermans (JoHermans@worldmail.com)
Cornelis JH van de Velde (velde@lumc.nl)
Johan HJM van Krieken (J.vanKrieken@pathol.azn.nl)

Version: 2 Date: 4 Jul 2001

We would like to thank the reviewers for critically reading the manuscript and the useful comments and suggestions. We do believe that we can adress the issues they raise.
Concerning the comments of professor Jass:
We agree with you that a distinction should be made between intratumoral and intraepithelial cells, and indeed we are referring to intratumoral cells. To emphasize this point, we added a sentence in the material and methods.
We know that, also in our own series, MSI-H tumors are rare in the rectal area. Most likely, inflammatory cell infiltration in the rectum is indeed independent of MSI status. However, since the current study does not take the (epi)genetic background of the tumors into account, we do not feel it necessary to add a statement about MSI in the discussion.
Minor point as raised by professor Jass are all corrected.