Reviewer’s report

Title: Multimodal therapy in treatment of rectal cancer is associated with improved survival and reduced local recurrence - a retrospective analysis over two decades

Version: 3  
Date: 28 August 2014

Reviewer: Maximilian Niyazi

Reviewer’s report:

Very nice retrospective manuscript on the time course of pts treated for rectal cancer in a major Bavarian cancer center.

Major: None

Minor: Please comment on
- short-term RT (was it used?)
- why these time frames and not others (e.g. after the first publication of CAO/ARO/AIO-94)
- stage migration: very probable, please discuss more extensively this highly relevant biasing factor
- why RTCHX in multivariate analysis ns, explanations?
- why such a low pCR (4%), explanations?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.