Author's response to reviews

Title: Complete pathological response (ypT0N0M0) after preoperative chemotherapy alone for stage IV rectal cancer

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Sir,

On behalf of the co-authors, I would like to thank you for having drawn our attention concerning the breaches of our manuscript.

We have indeed taken into consideration the different points that you mentioned and made the following changes by expanding the manuscript so that further information is included in all sections.

In particular:

1. We have substantially expanded the background section by including much more referenced information (ten references compared to three references in the previous manuscript) regarding the condition detailed in our case report.

2. We have added a paragraph and more details in the report itself.

3. We modified the conclusion by drawing particular attention to the fact that our patient has had a complete pathological response of a stage 4 rectal cancer with chemotherapy alone.

4. We have removed the copy of our patient's consent form and have made a statement in the manuscript, confirming that consent to publish this case was obtained from the patient.

5. We have included nine more references.

6. We have formatted the manuscript in accordance with the formatting guidelines.
The novel element of this case report is the effective preoperative chemotherapy only has turned an initially cT3 N1 M1 rectal cancer to yp T0 N0 M0.

This reverse protocol has proved to be successful and the patient is currently alive without signs of recurrence five years after surgery. The hypothesis of using preoperative chemotherapy only, in specific rectal cancer patients, should be explored.

Thanking you in advance for taking our manuscript into consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. S.P. Nalben