Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: Yoji Kishi

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions are required to accept the paper for publication.

Naiken et al. presented a case with rectal cancer and synchronous liver metastasis that was treated with reverse approach. Not only the hepatic lesions but also the rectal lesion showed complete response to the chemotherapy, which was targeted for the hepatic lesions. This was an interesting case report that suggested chemotherapy without radiation can also control the rectal cancer.

My comments are as the follows:

1. What is the criteria for the reverse treatment for colorectal cancer with synchronous approach in the authors' institution?
2. Did the authors have any experience of complete response with systemic chemotherapy for initially unresectable colorectal cancer?
3. Endoscopic or radiologic images of the rectal and metastatic lesions before chemotherapy should be presented.

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.