



Reply letter to: Spatial resolution of CT (predictive factors of pathological lateral pelvic lymph node metastasis in patients without clinical lateral pelvic lymph node metastasis [clinical stage II/III]: The analysis of data from the clinical trial [JCOG0212])



We thank Prof. Masamitsu Hatakenaka for providing comments and expressing an interest in this issue [1]. Your comments are quite appropriate. However, at the start of JCOG0212 study, it was impossible to use 1-mm slice thickness on preoperative CT routinely in this large multicenter study [2]. Thus, 5-mm slice thickness on preoperative CT was used for confirming lymph nodes with a short-axis diameter of less than 10 mm, which was one of the preoperative inclusion criteria of JCOG0212 study. The study of predictive factors of pathological lateral pelvic lymph node metastasis was a supplementary study analyzing data of preoperative CT with 5 mm thick sections.

The Colorectal Cancer Study Group of Japan Clinical Oncology Group is now investigating preoperative imaging diagnosis for lateral pelvic lymph node metastasis in rectal cancer on CT and MRI in the JCOG1410-A, JUPITER study (UMIN000016909). This study is a prospective observational study and CT data of 1 mm/1.25 mm-thickness and 5 mm-thickness slices, and MRI data of 3 mm-thickness slices are required. We hope that preoperative imaging diagnosis for lateral pelvic lymph node metastasis of rectal cancer will become more accurate according to the results.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare that they have no potential conflict of interest.

References

- [1] Masamitsu H. Spatial resolution of CT. *Eur J Surg Oncol* 2019 Sep;45(9):1748.
- [2] Komori K, Fujita S, Mizusawa J, Kanemitsu Y, Ito M, Shiomi A, et al. Predictive factors of pathological lateral pelvic lymph node metastasis in patients without clinical lateral pelvic lymph node metastasis (clinical stage II/III): the analysis of data from the clinical trial (JCOG0212). *Eur J Surg Oncol* 2019 Mar;45(3):336–40. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejso.2018.11.016> [Epub 2018 Nov 20].

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