

# Supplementary Materials: Delayed Surgery after Neoadjuvant Treatment for Rectal Cancer Does Not Lead to Impaired Quality of Life, Worry for Cancer, or Regret

**Table S1.** Definition of clinical complete response (cCR) and near cCR.

Complete Response (cCR)		Near cCR	
DRE	No palpable tumor	Superficial soft irregular tumor palpable	
Endoscopy	White scar with teleangiectasia	○	Small persistent ulcer
		○	Irregular thickening of mucosa and/or dysplasia at histology
MRI	○ Absence of tumor at T2W-MRI	○	Downstaging of the tumor with or without fibrosis, but with a heterogeneous or irregular aspect on MRI and/or
	○ Low signal at tumor location at b1000 DWI-MRI	○	Limited focal area with high signal at b1000 DWI-MRI
	○ Absence of suspicious lymph nodes at T2W-MRI.		

**Table S2.** QLQ-C30 scores (mean + SD) for direct vs delayed surgery groups. P- values in **bold** are significant (<0.05).

	Direct to Surgery		Delayed Surgery		p
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
PF	89.20	16.11	77.62	21.34	<b>0.03</b>
RF	86.67	22.49	76.19	29.75	0.33
EF	80.83	24.77	88.10	23.51	0.29
CF	81.67	24.11	89.29	16.80	0.66
SF	79.44	28.93	82.14	17.86	0.97
Fatigue	20.74	21.19	26.19	28.11	0.27
NV	2.78	7.69	1.19	4.45	0.58
Pain	10.56	18.82	20.24	27.09	0.34
Dyspnoea	5.75	12.81	11.90	28.06	0.84
Insomnia	22.99	29.69	19.05	31.25	0.63
Appetite loss	4.60	11.70	2.38	8.91	0.44
Constipation	13.79	24.43	7.14	14.19	0.61
Diarrhoea	16.09	26.16	16.67	28.50	0.89
Financial difficulties	10.00	19.87	11.90	24.83	0.78
Quality of life	80.46	22.52	77.98	22.31	0.53

**Table S3.** QLQ-CR29 scores (mean + SD) for direct vs delayed surgery groups. P- values in **bold** are significant (<0.05).

	Direct to surgery		Delayed surgery		p
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Urinary frequency	29.17	29.5	34.85	30.23	0.97
Body image	70.14	26.52	68.69	33.27	0.20
Incontinence	34.37	29.48	27.27	15.41	0.50
Blood and mucus in stool	7.29	14.87	3.03	6.74	0.83
Dysuria	8.33	19.25	6.67	14.05	1.0
Abdominal pain	20.83	26.87	21.21	22.47	0.82
Buttock pain	15.56	30.52	27.27	35.96	0.07
Dry mouth	25	22.77	18.18	34.52	0.24

Hair loss	8.33	19.25	0	0	0.15
Loss of taste	6.25	18.13	6.06	20.1	0.38
Worry for the future	37.78	30.52	24.24	21.56	0.47
Worry over weight	22.92	26.44	24.24	36.79	0.95
Embarrassment	37.78	37.52	21.21	26.97	0.63
Stoma care problems	2.78	9.62	3.33	10.54	1.0
Arousal men	20	29.81	57.14	16.27	<b>0.02</b>
Arousal women	26.67	26.29	16.67	33.33	0.12
Sex difficulty women	33.33	25.2	50	70.71	0.63
Sex difficulty men	60	43.46	66.67	47.14	0.09
Bowel symptoms	26.04	25.07	8.33	16.2	0.07
Bloating	25	25.82	18.18	22.92	0.59

**Table S4.** Non responder comparison. One patient had a multivisceral resection classified as 'other'. There are no significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ) between groups.

	Non responder		Responder		<i>p</i>
	N (%)	Mean	N (%)	Mean	
Age		65.8		63.0	0.35
Sex					
M	23 (63.9%)		28 (54.9%)		0.40
F	13 (36.1%)		23 (45.1%)		
ASAScore					
1	11 (30.6%)		18 (35.3%)		0.59
2	24 (66.7%)		29 (56.9%)		
3	1 (2.8%)		4 (7.8%)		
Surgery					
Direct	25 (69.4%)		33 (64.7%)		0.65
Delayed	11 (30.6%)		18 (35.3%)		
Endoscopic distance from anal verge		8		8	0.61
cT					
2	1 (2.8%)		0 (0%)		0.41
3	30 (83.3%)		48 (94.1%)		
4	5 (13.9%)		3 (5.9%)		
cN					
0	3 (8.3%)		5 (9.8%)		0.71
1	13 (36.1%)		15 (29.4%)		
2	20 (55.6%)		31 (60.8%)		
MRF					
-	9 (25.0%)		8 (15.7%)		0.28
+	27 (75.0%)		43 (84.3%)		
Time to surgery (weeks)		27.3		22.6	0.35
Type of operation					
APR	14 (38.9%)		20 (39.2%)		0.97
LAR	21 (58.3%)		31 (60.8%)		
Other	1 (2.8%)		0 (0%)		
Laparoscopy					
no	7 (19.6%)		9 (17.6%)		0.84
yes	29 (80.6%)		42 (82.4%)		
Conversion					
no	34 (94.4%)		45 (88.2%)		0.40
yes	2 (5.6%)		5 (9.8%)		
unknown	0 (0.0%)		1 (2.0%)		
Surgical reintervention					0.06
no					

yes	28 (77.7%)	49 (95.7%)	
unknown	6 (16.7%)	2 (4.3%)	
	2 (5.6%)		
Readmission			
no	25 (75.8%)	43 (84.3%)	0.10
yes	8 (24.2%)	8 (15.7%)	
Distant relapse			
no	31 (86.1%)	41 (82.0%)	0.77
yes	5 (13.9%)	9 (18.0%)	
Follow up (months)		27.6	31.1 0.38