Supplementary Online Content

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This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

eTable 1. Baseline Characteristics of the Studies Included in the Meta-analysis

Reference	Year	Study Interval	Number of patients	Outcomes reported	Study type
Calvo et al ⁸	2006	1998-2002	114	PCR / SPS	Prospective cohort analysis
Cercek et al ⁹	2018	2009-2015	628	PCR* / IR	Retrospective cohort analysis
Garcia-Aguilar <i>et al</i> ¹⁰	2015	2004-2012	125	PCR / SPS / IR / DFS	Randomized Phase II
Markinova <i>et al</i> ¹¹	2017	2009-2012	138	PCR / SPS / DFS	Randomized Phase II – subset analysis
Van Zoggel <i>et al</i> ¹²	2018	2010-2016	129	PCR / SPS	Retrospective cohort analysis
Conroy et al** ¹³	2020	2012-2017	431	PCR / DFS	Randomized Phase III
Van der Valk <i>et al</i> ¹⁴	2020	2011-2016	821	PCR***	Randomized Phase III

PCR- Pathologic complete response, SPS- sphincter-sparing surgery, IR- ileostomy requirement, DFS-disease-free survival.

^{*} Not all patients went to surgery, the collected metric is a combination of PCR for those who went to surgery and sustained clinical complete response rate of those who had no evidence of local recurrence at 12 months without surgery.

^{**} Included mFOLFIRINOX for induction chemotherapy, TNT group received adjuvant 3 months of mFOLFOX6, CRT+A received 6 months of adjuvant chemotherapy.

^{***} TNT arm included short course radiotherapy followed by chemotherapy with CAPOX / FOLFOX4.

eTable 2. List of Ongoing/Recently Reported TNT Trials Other Than Those Included in the Meta-analysis

Study	Approach	Participants	End points	Results	Conclusion
Garcia-Aguilar et al,	Pts with LARC were	307 (152-Induction	Primary- 3 year- DFS	Induction arm-	In TNT setting, CRT
2020-OPRA trial ³¹	randomized to 4	arm, 155-	in each arm	DFS-78%	followed by
	months of FOLFOX or	Consolidation arm)		DMFS-81%	consolidation
	CAPEOX before		Secondary- DFS,	OP-43%	chemotherapy
	(Induction) or after		DMFS, Organ		resulted in a
	(Consolidation)		Preservation (OP)	Consolidation arm-	significantly higher
	fluorouracil or		rates in each arm	DFS-77%	OP rate compared to
	capecitabine based			DMFS-83%	induction chemo
	chemoradiotherapy			OP-58%	followed by CRT
	(CRT). At 8-12 weeks,				·
	pts with CCR or near				
	CCR were assigned to				
	WW strategy while				
	others underwent TME				
Fernandez-Martos et	Pts with LARC were	180 (arm 1-115, arm	3 years DFS	Arm 1- DFS: 75.2%	Adding aflibercept to
al, 2020-GEMCAD	randomly assigned	2-65)		Arm 2-DFS: 81.5%	induction
1402 trial ³⁷	(2:1), to mFOLFOX6			(p=0.56)	mFOLFOX6 is not
	with (arm 1) or				associated with an
	without Aflibercept			PCR rate was 27.5%	improvement in DFS.
	(arm 2) prior to			and 0% in epithelial	CMS subtype may
	CRT and TME. Cases			and mesenchymal	predict PCR.
	were classified as			subtypes respectively.	
	CMS-immune,				
	epithelial or				
	mesenchymal				
	subtypes.				
Yuki et al, 2020-	Studied use of	42 (MSS-37, MSI-H-	PCR	MSS-30% PCR rate	Promising pCR rates
VOLTAGE trial ³⁴	nivolumab after CRT	5)		MSI-H -60% PCR	of 30% and 60% were
	and before surgery in			rate	shown in MSS and
	pts with LARC				MSI-H LARC pts
					treated with
					nivolumab plus

					radical surgery after CRT
George et al, 2020- NRG-GI002: First experimental arm initial results ³⁸	Pts with LARC were randomized to neoadjuvant FOLFOX (x 4mo) → CRT +/- veliparib 400mg PO BID → surgery 8-12 weeks later.	178 (88 control, 90 veliparib)	Primary- 4- point reduction in Neoadjuvant Rectal Cancer (NAR) score Secondary- OS, DFS, toxicity, pCR, cCR, therapy completion, negative surgical margins, and SSS	Control vs Veliparib: Mean NAR score- 12.6 vs 13.7 (p=0.69) PCR=21.6% vs 33.8% (p=0.14); CCR=28.2% vs 33.3% (p=0.60); SSS=52.5% vs 59.3% (p=0.43)	Veliparib added to CRT as a part of TNT was safe but did not improve NAR score
Shamseddine et al, 2020 ³⁶	Short-course radiation therapy (25 Grays in 5 fractions), followed by 6 cycles of mFOLFOX-6 plus Avelumab (anti PDL1), then total mesorectal excision (TME) in patients with LARC	13 out of the 44-pts accrued	PCR, major pathologic response, safety	PCR- 3/13 (25%) Major pathologic response- 6/13 (50%) No grade 3/4 AEs	Avelumab is tolerable when incorporated with short course RT as a part of TNT for LARC
Romesser et al, 2020 35	In Phase Ib (open), 18–30 pts with LARC will receive peposertib + capecitabine + RT In Phase II, 150 pts will be randomized (1:1) to receive oral capecitabine + RT with either oral peposertib or placebo	Phase 1b- 18-30 Phase II- 150	Primary: To define maximal tolerated dose of peposertib, PCR, CCR Secondary: Antitumor activity, safety, quality of life, pharmacokinetics of peposertib	Ongoing	Ongoing
Capdevila et al, 2020-GEMCAD 1703 DUREC trial ³³	Patients will receive 6 cycles of modified FOLFOX6 prior to	58	Primary: PCR	Ongoing	Ongoing

	CRT (capecitabine with 50.4 Gy in 28 fractions) and TME, combined with durvalumab 1500 mg every 4 weeks during induction CT, CRT and waiting period until surgery		Secondary: Toxicity, tumor regression grade, R0 resections, clear circumferential margins, surgical complications, NAR score, DFS and a biomarker program on tumor tissue, blood samples and stool microbiota		
Fokas et al, 2019- CAO/ARO/AIO-12 trial ³⁹	Patients with stage II or III rectal cancer were assigned to group A for induction chemotherapy using three cycles of fluorouracil, leucovorin, and oxaliplatin before fluorouracil/oxaliplatin CRT (50.4 Gy) or to group B for consolidation chemotherapy after CRT	306 (156 in group A and 150 in group B)	Primary: PCR Secondary: Toxicity, compliance, and surgical morbidity.	Group A vs B PCR= 17% vs 25% Grade 3/4 toxicity= 37% vs 27% Compliance to CRT: 91%, 78%, and 76% v 97%, 87% and 93% received full-dose radiotherapy, concomitant fluorouracil, and concomitant oxaliplatin in groups A and B, respectively Compliance to chemotherapy: 92% vs 85%	Up-front CRT followed by chemotherapy resulted in better PCR, higher compliance with CRT but worse compliance with chemotherapy compared with induction chemotherapy followed by CRT

^{*}PCR= Pathologic Complete Response, CRT- Chemoradiation, TNT-Total Neoadjuvant Therapy, DFS- Disease Free Survival, DMFS- Distant Metastasis Free Survival, OS- Overall Survival, MSI-H- Microsatellite Instability-High, MSS-Microsatellite Stable, LARC- Locally Advanced

Rectal Cancer, CCR- Clinical complete response, SSS- Sphincter sparing surgery, TME- Total mesorectal excision, CMS- Consensus Molecular Subtype

eFigure 1. Comparison of PCR Rates in TNT vs CRT Plus A (Meta-analysis of Nonrandomized Studies)

	TNT		CRT+	-A		Odds Ratio	Odds Ratio
Study or Subgroup	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	IV, Random, 95% CI
Calvo 2006	15	52	5	62	21.3%	4.62 [1.55, 13.79]	-
Cercek 2018	110	308	68	320	63.1%	2.06 [1.44, 2.94]	🖶
Van Zoggel 2018	10	58	3	71	15.5%	4.72 [1.23, 18.07]	
Total (95% CI)		418		453	100.0%	2.78 [1.55, 5.01]	•
Total events	135		76				
Heterogeneity: Tau² = Test for overall effect:				(P = 0.2	2); I² = 34	%	0.01

Fox plot comparing proportion of PCR between TNT and CRT+A [Non-randomized trials]. A random-effects model with inverse-variance method was used for the meta-analysis. Odds ratios are shown with 95% confidence interval.

eFigure 2. Comparison of PCR Rates in TNT vs CRT Plus A (Meta-analysis of Randomized Studies)

	TNT		CRT+	·A		Odds Ratio	Odds Ratio
Study or Subgroup	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	IV, Random, 95% CI	IV, Random, 95% CI
Conroy 2020	64	231	27	230	27.4%	2.88 [1.76, 4.72]	-
Garcia-Aguilar 2015	25	65	11	60	9.9%	2.78 [1.22, 6.34]	
Markovina 2017	19	69	11	69	9.7%	2.00 [0.87, 4.61]	 • -
Van der Valk 2020	117	423	55	398	53.0%	2.38 [1.67, 3.40]	•
Total (95% CI)		788		757	100.0%	2.51 [1.94, 3.25]	♦
Total events	225		104				
Heterogeneity: $Tau^2 = 0.00$; $Chi^2 = 0.72$, $df = 3$ ($P = 0.87$); $I^2 = 0\%$					'); I³ = 0%)	0.01 0.1 1 10 100
Test for overall effect: $Z = 6.96$ (P < 0.00001)							Favours [CRT+A] Favours [TNT]

Fox plot comparing proportion of PCR between TNT and CRT+A [Randomized trials]. A random-effects model with inverse-variance method was used for the meta-analysis. Odds ratios are shown with 95% confidence interval.