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| Journal Name: | [**Asian Journal of Research in Surgery**](https://journalajrs.com/index.php/AJRS) |
| Manuscript Number: | **Ms\_AJRS\_136904** |
| Title of the Manuscript: | **Role of Exploratory Laparoscopy in the Management of Locally Advanced Colorectal Cancer: Experience of Ibn Rochd University Hospital in Casablanca** |
| Type of the Article |  |

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| PART 1: Comments | | |
|  | Reviewer’s comment **Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated or assisted review comments are strictly prohibited during peer review.** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.** | **exploring the role of laparoscopy in staging colorectal malignancies in resource poor setting is an interesting debate in the world of cancer staging** | Thank you for your comments. The manuscript addresses an important aspect of colorectal cancer care in low-resource settings. By evaluating exploratory laparoscopy in locally advanced CRC, the study adds to the discussion on cost-effective and accessible methods for accurate staging when advanced imaging like PET-CT is unavailable. While the findings are preliminary due to the sample size and retrospective design, they highlight the potential role of laparoscopy in adapting treatment plans in LMICs. |
| **Is the title of the article suitable?**  **(If not please suggest an alternative title)** | **somewhere along the line , they have lost the plot , there’s not much data to favour laparoscopy over other modalities** | Thank you for your suggestion. We acknowledge that the title could be more precise given the retrospective design and limited sample size. Therefore, we have modified it to:"Evaluating Exploratory Laparoscopy for Staging Locally Advanced Colorectal Cancer: A Retrospective Single-Center Study in Casablanca." |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here. | **yes** | We appreciate your feedback. We have revised the abstract to include mention of the retrospective design and highlight the limitations in terms of data comparison with other staging modalities such as PET-CT. |
| Is the manuscript scientifically, correct? Please write here. | **exploring the role of laparoscopy in staging colorectal malignancies in resource poor setting is okay but except for the change of treatment in around 50% patients , there’s no mentioning of when the laparoscopy is done , was there any kind of preoperative treatment , comparing the staging accuracy with other modes of investigations like the PET CT , also the cost implications, between laparoscopy and a PETCT.**  **Most of the study is about the advantage of laparoscopy in locally advanced CRC , it needs more data to justify the title** | Thank you for your insightful comments. We agree that the manuscript lacks some details, such as the timing of laparoscopy and comparisons with PET-CT or preoperative treatments. We have addressed these limitations in the revised manuscript, including a clearer statement in the Discussion and Conclusion sections that further data and prospective studies are needed to fully support the findings. |
| **Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.** | yes | Thank you for highlighting the need to include the recommended references. We have added the following two references to the revised manuscript as suggested:Silva CC et al. (2024). J Adv Med Med Res. Khatoon F et al. (2021). J Pharm Res Int. |
| Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications? | yes | We have carefully reviewed the manuscript for language clarity and improved the flow in several sections as recommended. |
| Optional/General comments |  |  |

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| **PART 2:** | | |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s Feedback** (It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here) |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?** | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* | No ethical issues were identified. All ethical aspects were covered by the approval of the institutional ethics committee and informed consent from patients. |