

## Supplemental Online Content

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**eTable 1.** Overview of guideline differences

**eFigure 1.** A) Local Recurrence Rate, (B) Distant Recurrence Rate, (C) Disease-Free Survival, (D) Overall Survival for cohort 2011, stratified for neoadjuvant (chemo)radiotherapy

**eFigure 2.** (A) Local Recurrence Rate, (B) Distant Recurrence Rate, (C) Disease-Free Survival, (D) Overall Survival for cohort 2016, stratified for neoadjuvant (chemo)radiotherapy

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**eTable 4.** Causes of death per cohort and use of n(C)RT

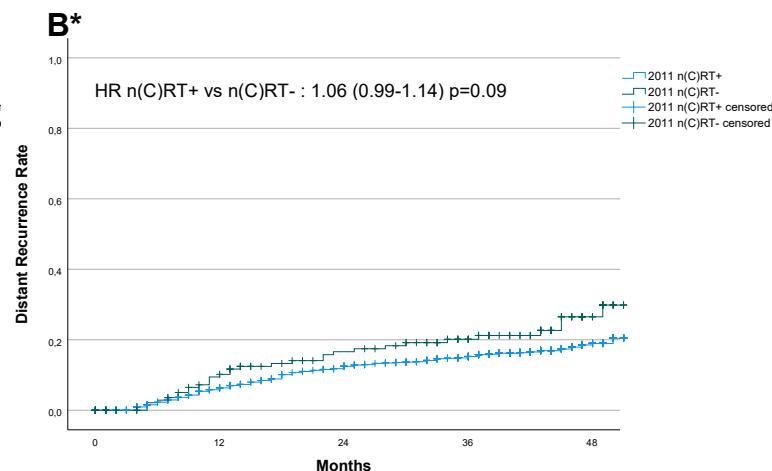
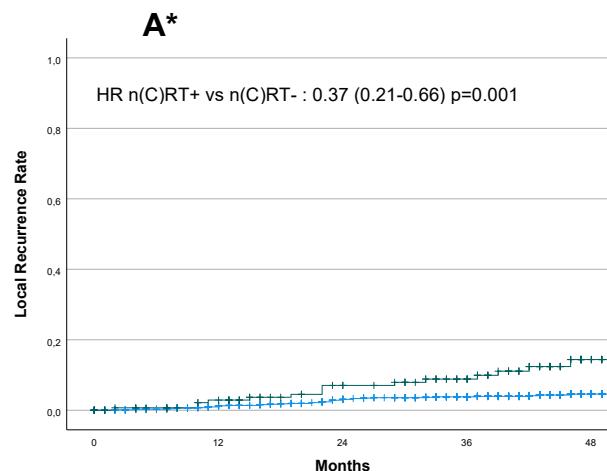
This supplemental material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

## eTable 1 Overview of guideline differences

|  | <b>Guideline 2011 (version 2·1 2008)</b> | <b>Guideline 2016 (version 3·0 2014)</b>   |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Treatment</b>                                   |  |  |
| <b>Surgery only</b>                                | cT1N0 (cT2N0 proximal tumors)            | cT1-3bN0(MRF-)   |
| <b>5x5 Gy</b>                                      | cT2-cT4N0-1                              | cT3c-d(MRF-)N0 or cT1-3 (MRF-)N1   |
| <b>Chemoradiation</b>                              | Expected CRM+ or cN2                     | cT4 or MRF+ or cN2 or LLN  |
| <b>Diagnostics</b>                                 |  |  |
| <b>Definition suspicious mesorectal lymph node</b> | Diameter ≥ 5 mm                          | Diameter ≥ 9 mm or diameter 5-9 cm and 2 or 3 malignant characteristics or diameter < 5 mm and 3 malignant characteristics or diameter, i.e. round shape, heterogeneous aspect or irregular margin |
| <b>Safe margin to the mesorectal fascia</b>        | ≥5mm                                     | > 1 mm   |

MRF: mesorectal fascial; LLN: lateral lymph node

**eFigure 1 (A) Local Recurrence Rate, (B) Distant Recurrence Rate, (C) Disease-Free Survival, (D) Overall Survival for cohort 2011, stratified for neoadjuvant (chemo)radiotherapy**

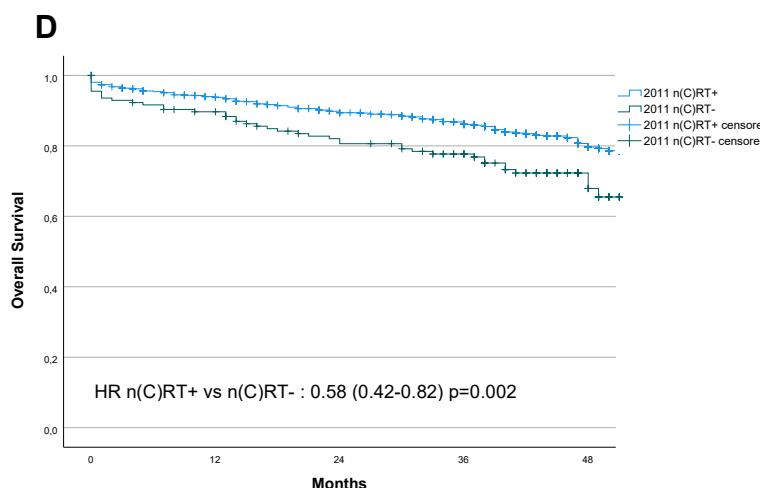
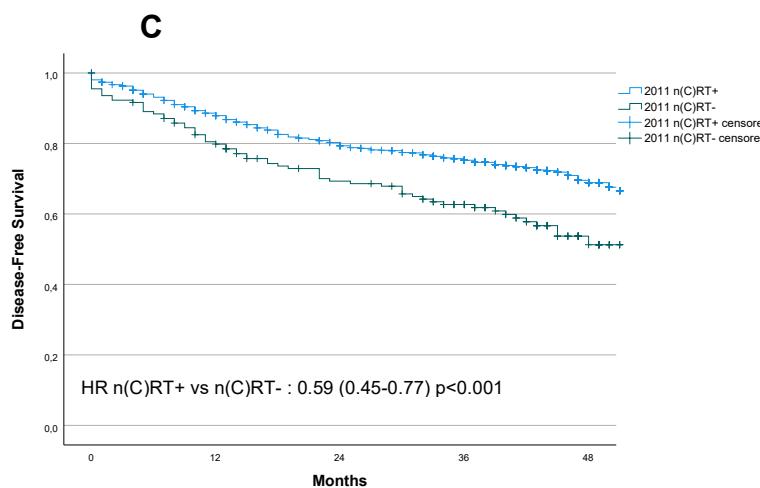


No. At risk:

|              |                   |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2011 n(C)RT+ | 1026 <sup>a</sup> | 920 | 834 | 751 | 236 |
| 2011 n(C)RT- | 156 <sup>b</sup>  | 131 | 109 | 89  | 27  |

No. At risk:

|              |                   |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2011 n(C)RT+ | 1023 <sup>c</sup> | 872 | 770 | 678 | 210 |
| 2011 n(C)RT- | 156 <sup>d</sup>  | 122 | 99  | 78  | 24  |



No. At risk:

|              |                   |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2011 n(C)RT+ | 1028 <sup>e</sup> | 875 | 766 | 673 | 208 |
| 2011 n(C)RT- | 156 <sup>f</sup>  | 121 | 97  | 76  | 22  |

No. At risk:

|              |                   |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2011 n(C)RT+ | 1027 <sup>g</sup> | 924 | 848 | 761 | 243 |
| 2011 n(C)RT- | 156 <sup>h</sup>  | 135 | 115 | 99  | 33  |

\* The presented hazard ratio is the adjusted hazard ratio after competing risk analyses, with death as competing risk

<sup>a</sup>Data were missing in 8 patients in the 2011 n(C)RT+ group for the endpoint local recurrence

<sup>b</sup>Data were missing in 5 patients in the 2011 n(C)RT- for the endpoint local recurrence

<sup>c</sup>Data were missing in 15 patient in the 2011 n(C)RT+ group for the endpoint distant recurrence

<sup>d</sup>Data were missing in 5 patients in the 2011 n(C)RT- cohort for the endpoint distant recurrence

<sup>e</sup>Data were missing in 10 patients in the 2011 n(C)RT+ group for the endpoint disease free survival

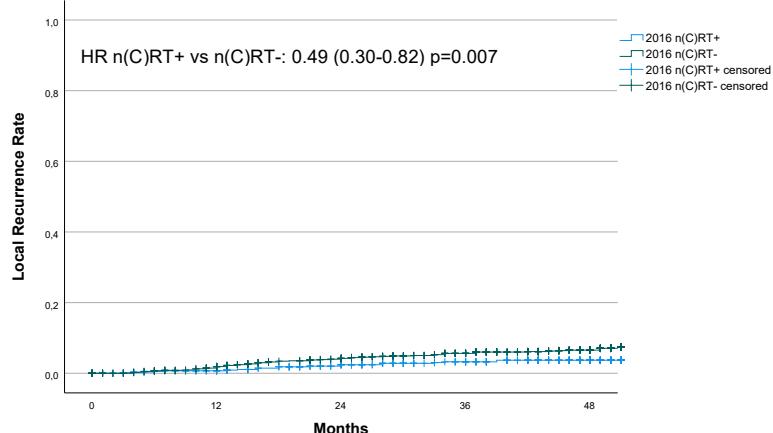
<sup>f</sup>Data were missing in 5 patients in the 2011 n(C)RT- group for the endpoint disease free survival

<sup>g</sup>Data were missing in 11 patients in the 2011 n(C)RT+ for the endpoint overall survival

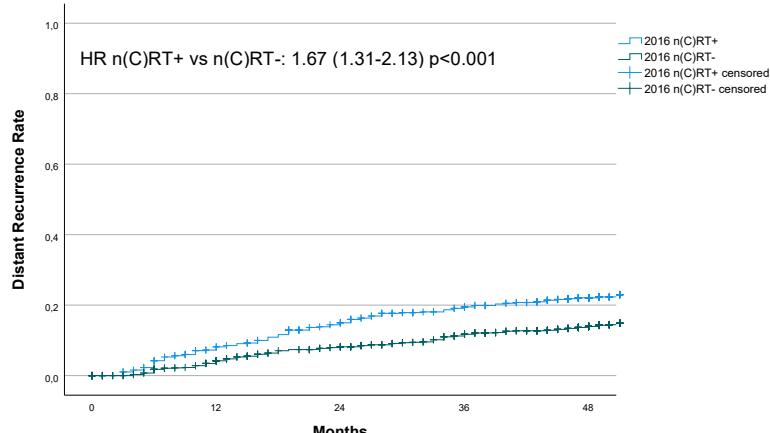
<sup>h</sup>Data were missing in 5 patient in the 2011 n(C)RT- group for the endpoint overall survival

**eFigure 2 (A) Local Recurrence Rate, (B) Distant Recurrence Rate, (C) Disease-Free Survival, (D) Overall Survival for cohort 2016, stratified for neoadjuvant (chemo)radiotherapy**

**A\***



**B\***



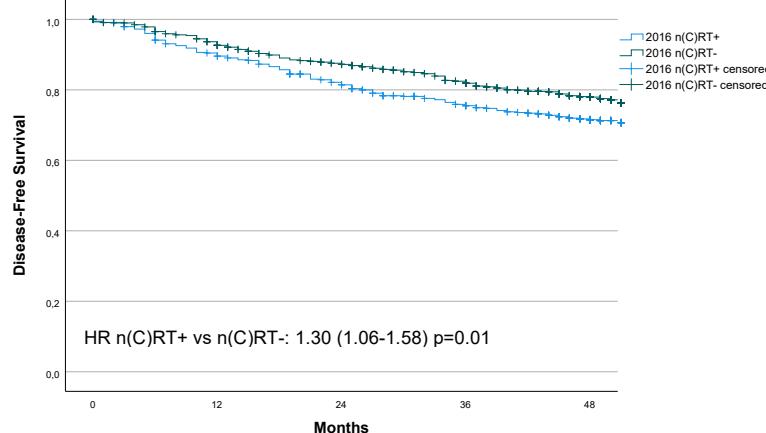
No. At risk:

|              |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2016 n(C)RT+ | 582 | 544 | 499 | 449 | 365 |
| 2016 n(C)RT- | 994 | 925 | 848 | 765 | 620 |

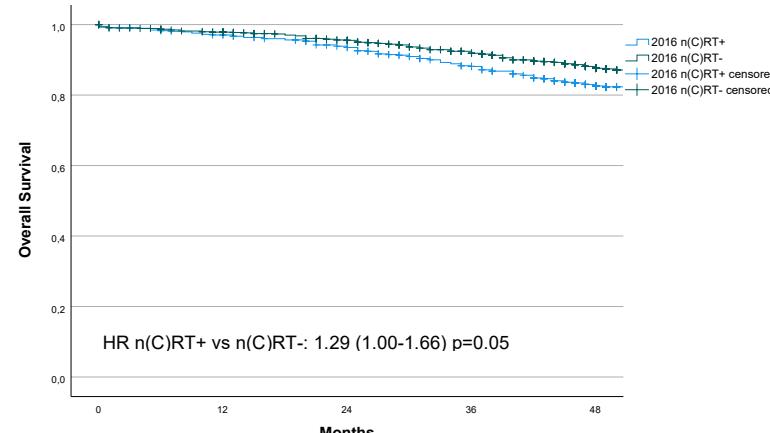
No. At risk:

|              |                  |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2016 n(C)RT+ | 581 <sup>a</sup> | 513 | 454 | 399 | 322 |
| 2016 n(C)RT- | 994              | 905 | 817 | 735 | 604 |

**C**



**D**



\*The presented hazard ratio is the adjusted hazard ratio after competing risk analyses, with death as competing risk  
<sup>a</sup>Data was missing in 1 patient in the 2016 n(C)RT+ group for the endpoint distant recurrence

**eTable 2 Univariate and multivariable analyses for Locoregional Recurrence and Overall Survival in cohort 2011**

| Variable                        | No   | Local Recurrence     |             |                        | Overall Survival     |       |                        |             |       |             |        |
|---------------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------|------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|--------|
|                                 |      | Univariable analysis |             | Multivariable analysis | Univariable analysis |       | Multivariable analysis |             |       |             |        |
|                                 |      | HR                   | 95% CI      | HR                     | 95% CI               | P     | HR                     | 95% CI      | HR    | 95% CI      | P      |
| <b>Sex</b>                      |      |                      |             |                        |                      |       |                        |             |       |             |        |
| Male                            | 758  | 1                    |             |                        |                      |       | 1                      |             |       |             |        |
| Female                          | 423  | 0.674                | 0.371-1.222 |                        |                      |       | 0.644                  | 0.477-0.870 |       |             |        |
| <b>Age</b>                      | 1140 | 1.003                | 0.978-1.030 |                        |                      |       | 1.074                  | 1.058-1.091 | 1.074 | 1.053-1.096 | <0.001 |
| <b>ASA score</b>                |      |                      |             |                        |                      |       |                        |             |       |             |        |
| I/II                            | 948  | 1                    |             |                        |                      |       | 1                      |             | 1     |             | <0.001 |
| III/IV                          | 206  | 1.110                | 0.522-2.359 |                        |                      |       | 3.984                  | 3.026-5.244 | 3.435 | 2.388-4.943 |        |
| <b>Distance from ARJ</b>        | 821  | 1.047                | 0.965-1.137 |                        |                      |       | 0.961                  | 0.920-1.004 | 0.948 | 0.905-0.994 | 0.03   |
| <b>Neoadjuvant radiotherapy</b> |      |                      |             |                        |                      |       |                        |             |       |             |        |
| No                              | 156  | 1                    |             | 1                      |                      | 0.01  | 1                      |             |       |             |        |
| Yes                             | 1026 | 0.350                | 0.193-0.635 | 0.427                  | 0.218-0.839          |       | 0.584                  | 0.417-0.818 |       |             |        |
| <b>Type of resection</b>        |      |                      |             |                        |                      |       |                        |             |       |             |        |
| (L)AR                           | 649  | 1                    |             | 1                      |                      | 0.002 | 1                      |             |       |             |        |
| APR                             | 288  | 2.040                | 1.049-3.968 | 2.744                  | 1.360-5.535          |       | 1.555                  | 2.204-2.190 |       |             |        |
| HP                              | 228  | 3.372                | 1.768-6.429 | 3.047                  | 1.546-6.002          |       | 2.920                  | 2.126-4.011 |       |             |        |
| <b>Approach</b>                 |      |                      |             |                        |                      |       |                        |             |       |             |        |
| Open                            | 636  | 1                    |             |                        |                      |       | 1                      |             |       |             |        |
| Minimal invasive                | 514  | 0.833                | 0.479-1.450 |                        |                      |       | 0.893                  | 0.680-1.173 |       |             |        |

| Variable                     | No   | Local Recurrence     |              |       |                        |        | Overall Survival |                      |              |       |                        |
|------------------------------|------|----------------------|--------------|-------|------------------------|--------|------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------|------------------------|
|                              |      | Univariable analysis |              |       | Multivariable analysis |        |                  | Univariable analysis |              |       | Multivariable analysis |
|                              |      | HR                   | 95% CI       | P     | HR                     | 95% CI | P                | HR                   | 95% CI       | P     | P                      |
| <b>Adjuvant chemotherapy</b> |      |                      |              |       |                        |        |                  |                      |              |       |                        |
| No                           | 1062 | 1                    |              |       |                        |        |                  | 1                    |              |       |                        |
| Yes                          | 119  | 2.114                | 1.090-4.099  |       |                        |        |                  | 0.763                | 0.471-1.236  |       |                        |
| <b>(y)pT-stage</b>           |      |                      |              |       |                        |        |                  |                      |              |       |                        |
| (y)pT0                       | 52   | 1                    |              |       | 1                      |        | <0.001           | 1                    |              | 1     | 0.004                  |
| (y)pT1                       | 110  | 0.328                | 0.055-1.966  | 0.342 | 0.056-2.078            |        |                  | 0.715                | 0.272-1.879  | 0.758 | 0.194-2.960            |
| (y)pT2                       | 452  | 0.408                | 0.112-1.481  | 0.415 | 0.113-1.518            |        |                  | 1.122                | 0.514-2.450  | 1.167 | 0.359-3.797            |
| (y)pT3                       | 489  | 1.202                | 0.367-3.940  | 1.107 | 0.332-3.693            |        |                  | 2.075                | 0.969-4.447  | 2.025 | 0.632-6.490            |
| (y)pT4                       | 21   | 8.582                | 2.136-34.481 | 4.665 | 1.016-21.420           |        |                  | 4.913                | 1.868-12.924 | 4.189 | 0.940-18.675           |
| <b>(y)pN-stage</b>           |      |                      |              |       |                        |        |                  |                      |              |       |                        |
| (y)pN0                       | 756  | 1                    |              |       |                        |        |                  | 1                    |              | 1     | <0.001                 |
| (y)pN1                       | 292  | 1.858                | 1.003-3.442  |       |                        |        |                  | 1.667                | 1.234-2.252  | 1.618 | 1.092-2.398            |
| (y)pN2                       | 80   | 3.708                | 1.672-8.226  |       |                        |        |                  | 2.851                | 1.883-4.318  | 2.801 | 1.602-4.896            |
| <b>Resection margin</b>      |      |                      |              |       |                        |        |                  |                      |              |       |                        |
| R0                           | 1106 | 1                    |              |       | 1                      |        | 0.004            | 1                    |              |       |                        |
| R1                           | 28   | 9.250                | 4.162-20.559 | 3.604 | 1.513-8.587            |        |                  | 2.797                | 1.523-5.136  |       |                        |
| <b>Pelvic sepsis</b>         |      |                      |              |       |                        |        |                  |                      |              |       |                        |
| No                           | 92   | 1                    |              |       |                        |        |                  | 1                    |              |       |                        |
| Yes                          | 203  | 1.015                | 0.493-2.088  |       |                        |        |                  | 1.322                | 0.946-1.848  |       |                        |

**eTable 3 Univariate and multivariable analyses for Locoregional Recurrence and Overall Survival in cohort 2016**

| Variable                        | No   | Local Recurrence     |             |                        | Overall Survival     |        |                        |             |       |             |        |
|---------------------------------|------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------|------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|--------|
|                                 |      | Univariable analysis |             | Multivariable analysis | Univariable analysis |        | Multivariable analysis |             |       |             |        |
|                                 |      | HR                   | 95% CI      | HR                     | 95% CI               | P      | HR                     | 95% CI      | HR    | 95% CI      | P      |
| <b>Sex</b>                      |      |                      |             |                        |                      |        |                        |             |       |             |        |
| Male                            | 1029 | 1                    |             | 1                      |                      | 0.04   | 1                      |             |       |             |        |
| Female                          | 547  | 0.590                | 0.357-0.976 | 0.566                  | 0.329-0.973          |        | 0.906                  | 0.690-1.188 |       |             |        |
| <b>Age</b>                      | 1541 | 1.011                | 0.987-1.034 |                        |                      |        | 1.073                  | 1.057-1.089 | 1.061 | 1.044-1.077 | <0.001 |
| <b>ASA score</b>                |      |                      |             |                        |                      |        |                        |             |       |             |        |
| I/II                            | 1296 | 1                    |             |                        |                      |        | 1                      |             | 1     |             | <0.001 |
| III/IV                          | 261  | 0.701                | 0.351-1.401 |                        |                      |        | 2.762                  | 2.101-3.632 | 1.906 | 1.086-1.852 |        |
| <b>Distance from ARJ</b>        | 1371 | 0.845                | 0.784-0.911 | 0.816                  | 0.757-0.880          | <0.001 | 0.987                  | 0.948-1.027 |       |             |        |
| <b>Neoadjuvant radiotherapy</b> |      |                      |             |                        |                      |        |                        |             |       |             |        |
| No                              | 994  | 1                    |             | 0.409                  | 0.240-0.698          | 0.001  | 1                      |             | 1     |             | 0.01   |
| Yes                             | 582  | 0.534                | 0.323-0.883 |                        |                      |        | 1.287                  | 0.996-1.563 | 1.418 | 1.086-1.852 |        |
| <b>Type of resection</b>        |      |                      |             |                        |                      |        |                        |             |       |             |        |
| (L)AR                           | 1120 | 1                    |             |                        |                      |        | 1                      |             |       |             |        |
| APR                             | 267  | 2.404                | 1.462-3.954 |                        |                      |        | 1.817                  | 1.323-2.493 |       |             |        |
| HP                              | 181  | 2.562                | 1.425-4.605 |                        |                      |        | 2.891                  | 2.092-3.995 |       |             |        |
| <b>Approach</b>                 |      |                      |             |                        |                      |        |                        |             |       |             |        |
| Open                            | 167  | 1                    |             | 1                      |                      | 0.02   | 1                      |             |       |             |        |
| Minimal invasive                | 1409 | 0.546                | 0.307-0.970 | 0.487                  | 0.266-0.892          |        | 0.625                  | 0.440-0.887 |       |             |        |

| Variable                     | No   | Local Recurrence     |               |        |                        |        | Overall Survival |                      |        |              |                        |
|------------------------------|------|----------------------|---------------|--------|------------------------|--------|------------------|----------------------|--------|--------------|------------------------|
|                              |      | Univariable analysis |               |        | Multivariable analysis |        | P                | Univariable analysis |        |              | Multivariable analysis |
|                              |      | HR                   | 95% CI        | HR     | 95% CI                 | HR     | 95% CI           | HR                   | 95% CI | P            |                        |
| <b>Adjuvant chemotherapy</b> |      |                      |               |        |                        |        |                  |                      |        |              |                        |
| No                           | 1536 | 1                    |               |        |                        |        | 1                |                      |        |              |                        |
| Yes                          | 40   | 0.441                | 0.061-3.168   |        |                        |        | 0.484            | 0.155-1.512          |        |              |                        |
| <b>(y)pT-stage</b>           |      |                      |               |        |                        |        |                  |                      |        |              |                        |
| (y)pT0                       | 47   | 1                    |               | 1      |                        | 0.004  | 1                |                      | 1      |              | <0.001                 |
| (y)pT1                       | 274  | 1.418                | 0.177-11.339  | 1.023  | 0.116-9.034            |        | 1.514            | 0.457-5.016          | 1.817  | 0.542-6.094  |                        |
| (y)pT2                       | 610  | 1.830                | 0.248-13.504  | 1.364  | 0.179-10.530           |        | 1.525            | 0.479-4.856          | 1.738  | 0.508-5.282  |                        |
| (y)pT3                       | 618  | 3.509                | 0.484-25.461  | 2.721  | 0.358-20.648           |        | 3.548            | 1.130-11.141         | 2.819  | 0.882-9.009  |                        |
| (y)pT4                       | 25   | 11.250               | 1.256-100.754 | 10.874 | 1.030-114.840          |        | 10.633           | 2.965-38.146         | 6.952  | 1.882-25.683 |                        |
| <b>(y)pN-stage</b>           |      |                      |               |        |                        |        |                  |                      |        |              |                        |
| (y)pN0                       | 1084 | 1                    |               | 1      |                        | <0.001 | 1                |                      | 1      |              | <0.001                 |
| (y)pN1                       | 365  | 2.211                | 1.360-3.592   | 1.870  | 1.091-3.206            |        | 1.773            | 1.321-2.379          | 1.256  | 0.919-1.715  |                        |
| (y)pN2                       | 125  | 4.176                | 2.333-7.478   | 3.779  | 2.013-7.095            |        | 3.886            | 2.774-5.444          | 2.424  | 1.665-3.528  |                        |
| <b>Resection margin</b>      |      |                      |               |        |                        |        |                  |                      |        |              |                        |
| R0                           | 1516 | 1                    |               |        |                        |        | 1                |                      | 1      |              | <0.001                 |
| R1                           | 58   | 4.969                | 2.633-9.377   |        |                        |        | 3.997            | 2.659-6.010          | 2.595  | 1.694-3.977  |                        |
| <b>Pelvic sepsis</b>         |      |                      |               |        |                        |        |                  |                      |        |              |                        |
| No                           | 1346 | 1                    |               |        |                        |        | 1                |                      |        |              |                        |
| Yes                          | 222  | 1.668                | 0.990-2.812   |        |                        |        | 1.027            | 0.717-1.470          |        |              |                        |

**eTable 4 Causes of death per cohort and use of n(C)RT**

|                        | Cohort 2011<br>(C)RT- (n=43) | Cohort 2011<br>(C)RT+ (n=174) | Cohort 2016<br>(C)RT- (n=135) | Cohort 2016<br>(C)RT+ (n=103) |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                        | n (%)                        | n (%)                         | n (%)                         | n (%)                         |
| Rectal cancer          | 13 (30)                      | 56 (32)                       | 73 (54)                       | 57 (55)                       |
| Surgical complications | 4 (9)                        | 14 (8)                        | 1 (1)                         | 1 (1)                         |
| Secondary malignancy   | 4 (9)                        | 15 (9)                        | 17 (13)                       | 9 (9)                         |
| Cardiovascular cause   | 6 (14)                       | 17 (10)                       | 13 (1)                        | 9 (9)                         |
| Pulmonary cause        | 3 (7)                        | 18 (10)                       | 6 (4)                         | 3 (3)                         |
| Infectious cause       | 0 (0)                        | 1 (1)                         | 2 (2)                         | 3 (3)                         |
| Neurological cause     | 2 (5)                        | 3 (2)                         | 5 (4)                         | 2 (2)                         |
| Ileus                  | 0 (0)                        | 2 (1)                         | 1 (1)                         | 1 (1)                         |
| Other                  | 1 (2)                        | 4 (2)                         | 4 (3)                         | 1 (1)                         |
| Unknown                | 10 (23)                      | 44 (25)                       | 13 (10)                       | 17 (17)                       |