

**Supplementary Table 2.** Patient characteristics of 67 patients.

| <b>Variables</b>               | <b>Number of patients</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sex                            |                           |
| Male                           | 40 (60.0%)                |
| Female                         | 27 (40.0%)                |
| Age (years)                    | 60 (50.5–66)              |
| Distance of tumor from AV (mm) | 40 (30–50)                |
| Pre-treatment CEA >5 (ng/mL)   | 28 (41.8)                 |
| Clinical T category            |                           |
| 3                              | 62 (92.5%)                |
| 4                              | 5 (7.5%)                  |
| Clinical N positive            | 39 (58.2%)                |
| Operative procedure            |                           |
| Sphincter-preserving           | 50 (74.6%)                |
| Sphincter non-preserving       | 17 (25.4%)                |
| Histological type              |                           |
| Well/moderately differentiated | 62 (92.5%)                |
| Other                          | 5 (7.5%)                  |
| ypT category                   |                           |
| ypT0                           | 18 (26.9)                 |
| ypTis                          | 1 (1.5%)                  |
| ypT1                           | 4 (6.0%)                  |
| ypT2                           | 16 (23.9%)                |
| ypT3                           | 27 (40.3%)                |
| ypT4                           | 1 (1.5%)                  |
| ypN category                   |                           |
| ypN0                           | 44 (65.7%)                |
| ypN1                           | 18 (26.9%)                |
| ypN2                           | 5 (7.5%)                  |
| Tumor regression grade         |                           |
| 1                              | 35 (52.2%)                |
| 3                              | 14 (20.9%)                |
| 4                              | 18 (26.9%)                |
| Adjuvant chemotherapy          |                           |
| Yes                            | 27 (40.3%)                |
| No                             | 40 (59.7%)                |