**Supplementary table 1. Clinicopathologic characteristics and PD-L1 expression status of enrolled patients (N=89)**

| Clinicopathological characteristics | Total cases n (%) | Tumor PD-L1 (pre-neoCRT) | | | Tumor PD-L1 (post-neoCRT) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | High n (%) | Low n (%) | *p* value | High n (%) | Low n (%) | *p* value |
| | 89 (100%) | 47 (53%) | 42 (47%) | | 57 (64%) | 32 (36%) | |
| Age | | | | 0.6 | | | 0.3 |
| <65 | 59 (66%) | 30 (64%) | 32 (63%) | | 40 (70%) | 19 (59%) | |
| ≥65 | 30 (34%) | 17 (36%) | 13 (37%) | | 17 (30%) | 13 (41%) | |
| Sex | | | | 0.2 | | | 0.97 |
| Female | 28 (31%) | 12 (26%) | 16 (38%) | | 18 (32%) | 10 (31%) | |
| Male | 61 (69%) | 35 (74%) | 26 (62%) | | 39 (68%) | 22 (69%) | |
| cN stage | | | | 0.45 | | | 0.42 |
| Negative | 44 (49%) | 25 (53%) | 19 (45%) | | 30 (53%) | 14 (44%) | |
| Positive | 45 (51%) | 22 (47%) | 23 (55%) | | 27 (47%) | 18 (56%) | |
| Clinical TNM stage (7th AJCC) | | | | **0.04*** | | | **0.04*** |
| I | 4 (4%) | 3 (6%) | 1 (2%) | | 2 (4%) | 2 (6%) | |
| II | 40 (45%) | 22 (47%) | 18 (43%) | | 28 (49%) | 12 (38%) | |
| III | 45 (51%) | 22 (47%) | 23 (55%) | | 27 (47%) | 18 (56%) | |
| pN stage | | | | 0.2 | | | 0.57 |
| Negative | 59 (66%) | 34 (72%) | 25 (60%) | | 39 (68%) | 20 (63%) | |
| Positive | 30 (34%) | 13 (28%) | 17 (40%) | | 18 (32%) | 12 (38%) | |
| TRG | | | | **0.02*** | | | 0.4 |
| 3 | 57 (64%) | 32 (68%) | 25 (609%) | | 37 (65%) | 20 (63%) | |
| 2 | 23 (26%) | 12 (26%) | 11 (26%) | | 16 (28%) | 7 (22%) | |
| 1 | 9 (10%) | 3 (6%) | 6 (14%) | | 4 (7%) | 5 (16%) | |
| Clinical response | | | | **0.01*** | | | **0.04*** |
| CR | 1 (1%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (2%) | | 1 (2%) | 0 (0%) | |
| PR | 38 (43%) | 21 (45%) | 17 (40%) | | 24 (42%) | 14 (44%) | |
| SD | 45 (51%) | 22 (47%) | 23 (55%) | | 29 (51%) | 16 (50%) | |
| PD | 5 (6%) | 4 (9%) | 1 (2%) | | 3 (5%) | 2 (6%) | |
| Chemotherapy | | | | **0.0005*** | | | **0.02*** |
| capecitabine | 44 (49%) | 29 (62%) | 15 (39%) | | 29 (51%) | 15 (47%) | |
| UFT | 32 (36%) | 11 (23%) | 21 (45%) | | 20 (35%) | 12 (38%) | |
| 5-FU | 10 (11%) | 5 (11%) | 5 (10%) | | 6 (11%) | 4 (13%) | |
| Others | 3 (3%) | 2 (4%) | 1 (6%) | | 2 (4%) | 1 (3%) | |
| Local recurrence | | | | **0.046*** | | | 0.13 |
| Negative | 80 (90%) | 45 (96%) | 35 (83%) | | 53 (93%) | 27 (84%) | |
| Positive | 9 (10%) | 2 (4%) | 7 (17%) | | 4 (7%) | 5 (16%) | |
| Distant metastasis | | | | 0.11* | | | 0.62 |
| Negative | 72 (81%) | 41 (87%) | 31 (74%) | | 47 (82%) | 25 (78%) | |
| Positive | 17 (19%) | 6 (13%) | 11 (26%) | | 10 (18%) | 7 (22%) | |
| Tumor IFN-γ (pre-neoCRT) | | | | **0.001*** | | | |
| High | 35 (39%) | 26 (55%) | 9 (21%) | | - | - | |
| Low | 54 (61%) | 21 (45%) | 33 (79%) | | - | - | |
| Tumor IFN-γ (post-neoCRT) | | | | | | | 0.26 |
| High | - | - | - | | 50 (88%) | 28 (88%) | |
| Low | - | - | - | | 7 (12%) | 4 (13%) | |
| NA | - | - | - | | | | |
| Tumor TGF-β (pre-neoCRT) | | | | 0.3 | | | |
| High | 62 (70%) | 35 (74%) | 27 (62%) | | - | - | |
| Low | 27 (30%) | 12 (26%) | 15 (36%) | | - | - | |
| Tumor TGF-β (post-neoCRT) | | | | | | | 0.1 |
| High | - | - | - | | 52(91%) | 26 (81%) | |
| Low | - | - | - | | 5 (9%) | 6 (19%) | |
| NA | - | - | - | | | | |

cN stage: positive (stage 1+2) vs. negative (stage 0); pN stage: positive (stage 1a+1b+2) vs. negative (stage 0+X); CR: Complete response; PR: partial response; SD: stable disease; PD: progressive disease; tumor PD-L1: high (grade 2+3) vs. low (grade 0+1); tumor IFN-γ: high (grade 2+3) vs. low (grade 0+1); tumor TGF-β: high (grade 2+3) vs. low (grade 0+1);.

Chi-squared test was used. Fisher's exact test was used when >25% of the cells had expected counts <5.
The contrast test did not include the "NA" group.