

Supplementary Data

Table 1. Consistency between double assessments for histopathologic scoring and microvessel density

Variable	Dr. YZ & XF/PW	Dr. YH	ICC	95% CI
Total histopathologic score				
Proximal margin	1 (0-8)	1 (0-6)	0.935	0.912-0.953
Distal margin	1 (0-9)	1 (0-8)	0.962	0.947-0.972
Microvessel density^a				
Proximal margin	25.3 ± 8.9	24.0 ± 9.3	0.787	0.710-0.844
Distal margin	22.7 ± 10.6	23.9 ± 8.7	0.756	0.667-0.821

Data are expressed as median (range) or mean ± standard deviation.

ICC, intraclass correlation coefficient; CI, confidence interval.

^aMicrovessel counts per 200× field.

Table 2. Histopathologic scoring for resection margins in three treatment groups after propensity score matching

Variable	nCRT group (n = 48)	nCT group (n = 48)	Control group (n = 48)	P-value
Score for mucosal erosions/ulcerations				
Proximal margin	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0.244
Distal margin	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0.613
Score for nuclear abnormalities of epithelial cells				
Proximal margin	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-0)	0.360
Distal margin	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-0)	0.363
Score for crypt disarrangement				
Proximal margin	0 (0-2)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-0)	< 0.001
Distal margin	1 (0-2)	0 (0-2)	0 (0-2)	< 0.001
Score for mucosal inflammatory infiltrate				
Proximal margin	1 (0-2)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	< 0.001
Distal margin	1 (0-2)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	< 0.001
Score for mucosal edema				
Proximal margin	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0.444
Distal margin	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0.474
Score for fibrosis of the lamina propria				
Proximal margin	0 (0-1)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)	< 0.001
Distal margin	1 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-0)	< 0.001
Score for fibrosis of submucosa				
Proximal margin	1 (0-2)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	< 0.001
Distal margin	1 (0-3)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	< 0.001
Score for sclerosis of submucosal vessels				
Proximal margin	0 (0-1)	0 (0-0)	0 (0-0)	< 0.001
Distal margin	1 (0-3)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-0)	< 0.001
Score for lymph congestion				
Proximal margin	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0.756
Distal margin	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0 (0-1)	0.025
Total histopathologic score				
Proximal margin	3 (0-8)	0 (0-3)	0 (0-2)	< 0.001
Distal margin	4 (2-9)	0 (0-4)	0 (0-3)	< 0.001

Data are expressed as median (range).

nCRT, neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy; nCT, neoadjuvant chemotherapy.

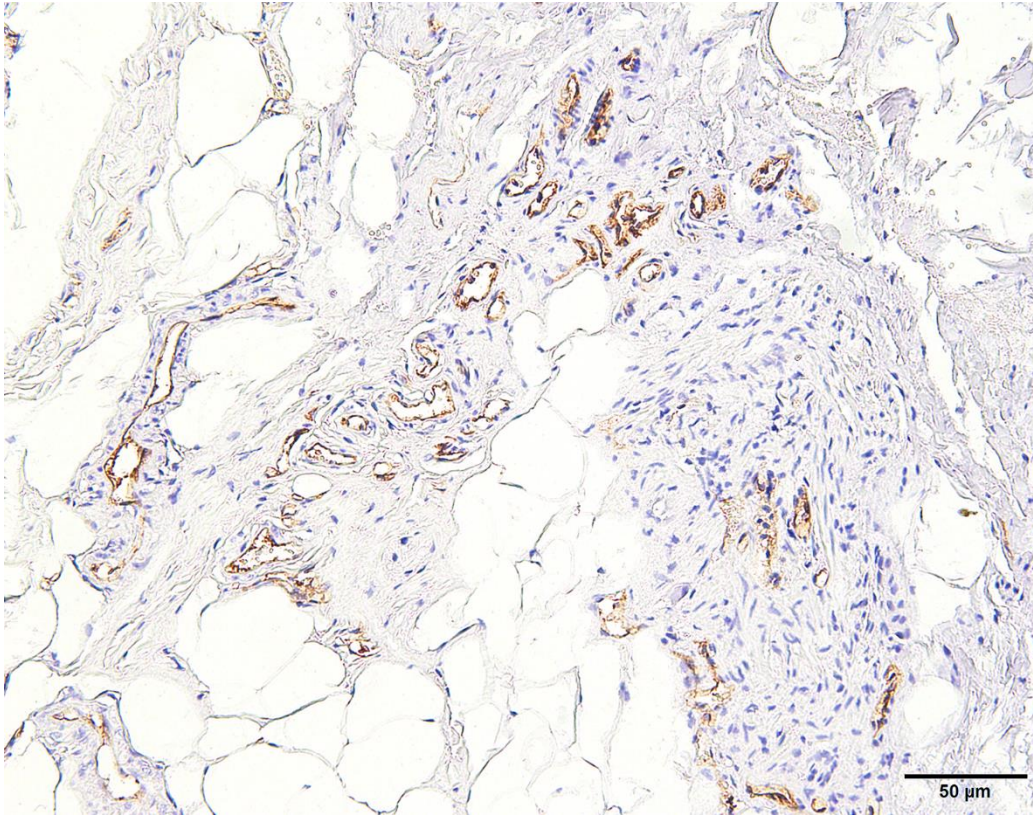


Figure 1. Submucosal microvessels stained for CD31

Tissue is immunostained for CD31. A brown-stained cell or cluster indicates a single microvessel. 46 microvessels were counted on this 200× field.