



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-57265

Title: pCR after neoadjuvant chemotherapy and survival in localized bladder cancer: A Moroccan experience.

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance		✓		

Reviewer's ID: JPR-198

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This manuscript presents a retrospective study on pathological complete response (pCR) after neoadjuvant chemotherapy in bladder cancer. The topic is clinically important, and the study provides useful real-world data from a Moroccan setting. The analysis is generally appropriate, but the paper needs moderate revision to improve clarity, methodological detail, and presentation.

Major Concerns

1. Methodological Limitations

- Retrospective, single-center design limits generalizability.
- Small sample size (n=65) reduces statistical strength.
- Only 35 patients were evaluable for pCR, which is not clearly justified (page 3).
- Lack of detailed data on tumor staging and patient characteristics.

2. Data Interpretation

- RFS difference is not statistically significant ($p = 0.091$), but still discussed as meaningful.
- Operability is highlighted, but reasons (page 3: progression, refusal, loss to follow-up) are not deeply analyzed.

3. Missing Clinical Details

- Limited information on:
 - Tumor stage distribution
 - Comorbidities
 - Performance status

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- No subgroup analysis (e.g., regimen comparison, stage-wise outcomes).

4. Writing and Structure

- Language is generally good but some sentences are long and dense.
- Minor formatting issues (spacing, figure labeling on page 4).
- Results section could be better structured for readability.

Minor Comments

- Figures (page 4) are useful but need clearer captions and labeling.
- Some references are very recent but not yet published (conference abstracts).
- Repetition between abstract and conclusion.
- Keywords are appropriate but could be more specific.

Suggestions for Improvement

- Clarify why only 35 patients were evaluable for pCR.
- Add more details on baseline patient and tumor characteristics.
- Improve discussion on real-world challenges (loss to follow-up, operability issues).
- Avoid overinterpreting non-significant results (RFS).
- Improve figure clarity and overall formatting.
- Perform minor language editing for readability.