

Supplementary Table 1. Summary of outcomes for the comparison of the meta-analysis model

Participants (studies) follow up	Certainty assessment						Summary of finding				
	Risk of bias	Inconsistency	Indirectness	Imprecision	Publication bias	Overall certainty of evidence	Study event rate (%) With immediate surgery	With CRT	Relative effect (95% CI)	Anticipated absolute effect Risk with immediate surgery	Risk difference with CRT
Resection rate											
400 (4 RCTs)	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	None	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	148/203 (72.9%)	119/197 (60.4%)	RR 0.83 (0.72 to 0.95)	729 per 1,000	124 fewer per 1,000 (from 204 fewer to 36 fewer)
R0 resection rate											
267 (4 RCTs)	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	Not serious	None	⊕⊕⊕⊕ HIGH	66/148 (44.6%)	87/119 (73.1%)	RR 1.55 (1.15 to 2.09)	446 per 1,000	245 more per 1,000 (from 67 more to 486 more)
Overall survival											
400 (4 RCTs)	Not serious	Serious ^a	Not serious	Not serious	None	⊕⊕⊕○ MODERATE	203	197	-	The mean overall survival was 0	MD: 3.75 higher (0.93 higher to 6.56 higher)

RCT, randomized controlled trial; CI, confidence interval; CRT, chemoradiotherapy; RR, risk ratio; MD, mean difference.

^aHigh between-study heterogeneity.