SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 1: Comparison of clinicopathological characteristics between stage II and stage III EOCRC patients.				
Variable	**Category**	**Stage II**	**Stage III**	**P-value**
Sex	Male	Stage II: 50%	Stage III: 84%	0.022
	Female	Stage II: 50%	Stage III: 16%	0.022
Adjuvant therapy	Capecitabine	Stage II: more frequently	Stage III: rarely	0.006
	XELOX	Stage II: rarely	Stage III: more frequently	0.006
Budding	Low/intermediate/high	5/7/14	3/6/16	>0.05
TIL	Low/high	6/1	4/2	>0.05
Surgical margin	Negative	26	25	>0.05
Grade	G1/G2/G3	2/15/7	2/16/6	>0.05
LVI	Positive	3 (13%)	13 (54%)	>0.05
PNI	Positive	Less commonly	More frequently	>0.05
MSI	MSI-H	47%	33%	>0.05
Mucinous component	Yes	12%	16%	>0.05
Localization	Right	Stage II: 11 (42%)	Stage III: 10 (40%)	>0.05
	Left	Stage II: 10 (38%)	Stage III: 9 (36%)	>0.05
	Rectum	Stage II: 5 (20%)	Stage III: 6 (24%)	>0.05
Baseline CEA	Normal	Stage II: 24 (78%)	Stage III: 23 (72%)	>0.05
Baseline CEA	High	Stage II: 7 (22%)	Stage III: 9 (28%)	>0.05
Local therapies	Yes	Stage II: 2 (8%)	Stage III: 2 (8%)	>0.05
	No	Stage II: 24 (92%)	Stage III: 24 (92%)	>0.05

Comparisons were performed using the chi-square or Fisher's exact test for categorical variables and the Student's t-test or Mann-Whitney U test for continuous variables, as appropriate. LVI: Lymphovascular invasion; PNI: Perineural invasion; MSI: Microsatellite instability; TIL: Tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes; EOCRC: Early-onset colorectal cancer; CEA: Carcinoembryonic antigen. $P<0.05$ was considered statistically significant.