

Table I. *Clinical data of the 100 included patients.*

Variable	Value
Age (years), median (range)	
Median (range)	60.5 (50-89)
Gender, n	
Male	73
Female	27
Body mass index, kg/m ²	
Median (range)	22.1 (19.0-39.4)
Diabetes, n	
Yes	24
Preoperative CRT, n	
Yes	14
Lower rectum	22
Tumor location, n	
Middle rectum	69
Upper rectum	9
≥cT3, n	
Yes	57
cN+, n	
Yes	29
TNM stage	
I	37
II	32
III	25
IV	6
Type of resection, n	
Low anterior	90
Intersphincteric	8
Total proctocolectomy	1
Total pelvic dissection	1
Approach, n	
Open	19
Laparoscopic	81
Double stapling technique, n	
Stapled anastomosis	92
Hand-sewn anastomosis	8
Lateral lymph node dissection, n	
Yes	12
Operation time, min	
Median (range)	290 (166-601)
Blood loss, ml	
Median (range)	5 (0-2726)

CRT: Chemoradiotherapy.