

Table SI. Number of CETCs of all patients during the treatment course.

Patient number	ICD10	Number of CETCs					Tumor location
		Before neoadj. R/CT	After first cycle of R/CT	Before surgery	Before adj. CT	After first cycle of CT	
1	C20	40	73	225	65	20	Rectum
2	C20	n.d.	10	0	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
3	C20	0	30	15	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
4	C20	360	10	60	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
5	C20	54	30	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
6	C20	40	105	70	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
7	C20	246	200	125	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
8	C20	105	64	65	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
9	C20	10	0	0	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
10	C20	205	50	125	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
11	C20	0	390	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
12	C20	225	75	640	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
13	C20	155	189	210	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
14	C20	10	0	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	Rectum
15	C20	n.d.	n.d.	55	270	225	Rectum
16	C20	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	215	110	Rectum
17	C18	n.d.	n.d.	45	145	80	Colon ascendens
18	C18	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	60	35	Colon sigmoideum
19	C18	n.d.	n.d.	35	40	20\	Colon sigmoideum
20	C18	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	45	0	Colon sigmoideum
21	C18	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	45	20	Colon ascendens <sup>a</sup>
22	C18	n.d.	n.d.	110	105	20	Coecum

<sup>a</sup>Patient had a simultaneous rectal cancer, for which neoadjuvant radiochemotherapy had been performed prior to study entry; C18, diagnosed with colon carcinoma; C20, diagnosed with rectum carcinoma; n.d., not defined; CETC, circulating epithelial tumor cell; neoadj., neoadjuvant; adj., adjuvant; CT, chemotherapy; R/CT, radio/chemotherapy.