gutflix
GI learning, personalised

Summary

Radiological assessment of response for organ preservation: Can ctDNA help in early stage?

Sofia Gourtsoyianni

UEG Week Barcelona 2026 | Presentation

October 19, 2026

Two presentations addressed imaging and biomarker strategies for organ preservation in rectal cancer, covering MRI-based response assessment after neoadjuvant therapy and the emerging role of circulating tumour DNA monitoring in both microsatellite-instable and microsatellite-stable disease.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker stated that MRI using high-resolution T2-weighted sequences and mandatory diffusion-weighted imaging is the imaging modality of choice for rectal cancer staging and restaging, with reimaging performed 6 to 8 weeks after neoadjuvant treatment to assess response for organ preservation decisions.
- The speaker reported that pathologic complete response rates are 10 to 25% with standard neoadjuvant treatment and have increased to 40% with total neoadjuvant therapy combining chemoradiotherapy with induction or consolidation chemotherapy.
- The speaker stated that mesorectal lymph nodes with short axis greater than 5 millimetres after treatment are considered involved, and a test-of-time approach with repeat imaging at 6 to 12 weeks can be used to monitor nodal response when considering organ preservation.
- The speaker reported that in the niche two trial of over 100 patients treated with nivolumab and ipilimumab, 94% of patients who were ctDNA negative before surgery achieved pathological complete response, while those remaining ctDNA positive were partial or non-responders.
- The speaker stated that ctDNA converted to negative as early as 1.4 months in complete responders in the Dostarlimab study, faster than rectal MRI which took a median of six months, though ctDNA analysis in some trials was described by the speaker as not sufficiently predictive.

– The speaker concluded that ctDNA is a promising tool to monitor organ preservation but requires further validation, and the key may be combining it with MRI features or obtaining more frequent time points during treatment.

VIEW THIS CONTENT ON GUTFLIX

https://gutflix.eu/search/d/52323a2c-d150-11f1-bf72-daaa6dbee0a2

AI-generated summary

This summary was generated by an AI large language model based on the content transcript. It is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a substitute for clinical judgment. Always rely on your professional expertise and the full clinical context when making clinical decisions.