**Table 1: Comparison of Patient, tumour and Treatment related characteristics between the two arms (Younger vs Older)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable | Category | Younger  [≤ 50 yrs]  N = 130 | Older  [> 50 yrs]  N = 116 | P value |
| Sex | Male | 83 (50.9 %) | 80 (49.1 %) | 0.397 |
| Female | 47 (56.6 %) | 36 (43.4 %) |
| Age in years | Median (Range) | 37.50 (16-50) | 61.0 (50-89) | NA |
| Mean (SD) | 36.75 (9.627) | 62.76 (8.08) | NA |
| Co-morbidities | Present | 10 (35.7 %) | 18 (64.3 %) | 0.054 |
| Absent | 120 (55.0 %) | 98 (45.0 %) |
| Family history of CRC | No | 121 (51.7 %) | 113 (48.3 %) | 0.115 |
| Yes | 9 (75.0 %) | 3 (25.0 %) |
| Symptoms | Bleeding PR | 58 (55.2 %) | 47 (44.8 %) | 0.132 |
| Pain | 10 (62.5 %) | 6 (37.5 %) |
| Altered bowel habits | 7 (70 %) | 3 (30 %) |
| Others | 51 (51.5 %) | 48 (48.5 %) |
| Unknown | 4 (25.0 %) | 12 (75.0 %) |
| Distance from anal verge (cm) | Mean (SD) | 5.01 (30.395) | 5.16 (4.222) | 0.759 |
| Median (Range) | 5.0 (0-16) | 4.50 (0-20) | 0.759 |
| < 6 cm | 51 (52.0 %) | 48 (48.5 %) | 0.837 |
| ≥ 6 cm | 79 (53.4 %) | 69 (46.6 %) |
| Histological Grade | WD | 14 (60.9 %) | 9 (39.1 %) | 0.032 |
| MD | 61 (50.8 %) | 59 (49.2 %) |
| PD | 17 (81.0 %) | 4 (19.0 %) |
| Unknown | 38 (46.3 %) | 44 (53.7 %) |
| CEA level | Continuous  Median (Range) | 4.39  (0.3-4700) | 4.34  (0.04-3590) | 0.894 |
| Continous  Mean (SD) | 71.33  (432.89) | 49.03  (333.46) | 0.654 |
| cT Stage | cT1 | 1 (25.0 %) | 3 (75.0 %) | 0.506 |
| cT2 | 19 (46.3 %) | 22 (53.7 %) |
| cT3 | 91 (56.5 %) | 70 (43.5 %) |
| cT4 | 15 (48.4 %) | 16 (51.6 %) |
| cTx | 4 (44.4 %) | 5 (55.6 %) |
| cT Stage Group  (n=237) | cT1,2 | 20 (40.4 %) | 25 (55.6 %) | 0.193 |
| cT3,4 | 106 (55.2 %) | 86 (44.8 %) |
| cN Stage | cN0 | 33 (38.8 %) | 52 (61.2 %) | 0.000 |
| cN1 | 61 (54.0 %) | 52 (46.0 %) |
| cN2 | 32 (82.1 %) | 7 (17.9 %) |
| cNx | 4 (44.4 %) | 5 (55.6 %) |
| cN Group  (n=237) | Absent | 33 (38.8 %) | 52 (61.2 %) | 0.001 |
| Present | 93 (61.2 %) | 59 (38.8 %) |
| c Stage | Stage I | 9 (37.5 %) | 15 (62.5 %) | 0.004 |
| Stage II | 22 (37.9 %) | 36 (62.1 %) |
| Stage III | 92 (62.2 %) | 56 (37.8 %) |
| Stage IV | 7 (43.8 %) | 9 (56.2 %) |
| Underwent RT | Yes | 126 (52.9 %) | 112 (47.1 %) | 1.000 |
| No | 4 (50.0 %) | 4 (50.0 %) |
| Surgery Planned | APR | 93 (54.4 %) | 78 (45.6 %) | 0.465 |
| LAR | 37 (49.3 %) | 38 (50.7 %) |
| Surgery Performed | APR | 44 (60.3 %) | 29 (39.7 %) | 0.222 |
| LAR | 48 (52.7 %) | 43 (47.3 %) |
| No Surgery | 38 (46.3 %) | 44 (53.7 %) |
| Chemotherapy | Yes | 91 (58.3 %) | 65 (41.7 %) | 0.023 |
| No | 39 (43.3 %) | 51 (56.7 %) |