

## Supplementary

**Table S1.** Characteristics of patients with relative difference of CA19-9 < 0 and  $\geq 0$ .

|   | RDC < 0<br>(n = 30)        | RDC $\geq 0$<br>(n = 188) | p-value |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Age (years)                               | 59.6 $\pm$ 9.9             | 59.6 $\pm$ 8.4            | 0.999   |
| Female                                    | 13 (43.3)                  | 96 (51.1)                 | 0.432   |
| ASA score (I / II / III)                  | 0/26(86.7)/4(13.3)         | 14(7.5)/159(85.5)/13(7.0) | 0.167   |
| BRPC                                      | 15 (50)                    | 101 (53.7)                | 0.781   |
| Pre-NACT CA 19-9 (U/ml)                   | 510.6 $\pm$ 889.2          | 710.5 $\pm$ 3388.8        | 0.749   |
| Post-NACT CA 19-9 (U/ml)                  | 750.7 $\pm$ 1141.7         | 101.3 $\pm$ 244.5         | 0.004   |
| Post-OP CA 19-9 (U/ml)                    | 346.9 $\pm$ 960.7          | 143.9 $\pm$ 1589.5        | 0.519   |
| NACT regimen (FOLFIRINOX)                 | 22 (73.3)                  | 142 (75.5)                | 0.796   |
| NACT with RTx                             | 2 (6.7)                    | 5 (2.7)                   | 0.248   |
| NACT cycle                                | 7.0 $\pm$ 4.4              | 6.6 $\pm$ 3.1             | 0.508   |
| Pre-OP CA 19-9 < 37 U/ml                  | 6 (20)                     | 114 (60.6)                | <0.001  |
| Pre-OP CT PR / SD                         | 6 (20) / 24(80)            | 60 (31.9) / 128 (68.1)    | 0.187   |
| Operation time (min)                      | 334.3 $\pm$ 100.9          | 314.3 $\pm$ 95.2          | 0.385   |
| Intraoperative transfusion                | 5 (16.7)                   | 31 (16.5)                 | 0.981   |
| Vessel resection                          | 16 (53.3)                  | 102 (54.3)                | 0.925   |
| Adjacent organ resection                  | 1 (3.3)                    | 17 (9.0)                  | 0.291   |
| Differentiation (WD, MD / PD, UD)         | 25 (89.3)/3(10.7)          | 160(93.6)/11(6.4)         | 0.412   |
| Tumor size (cm)                           | 2.7 $\pm$ 1.3              | 2.5 $\pm$ 1.4             | 0.596   |
| N-stage (0 / 1 / 2), AJCC 8 <sup>th</sup> | 11 (36.7)/14(46.7)/5(16.7) | 108(57.4)/62(33)/18(9.6)  | 0.037   |
| Tumor regression grade (0, 1/2)           | 4 (14.8) / 23 (85.2)       | 18 (10.0) / 162(90.0)     | 0.499   |
| Lymphovascular invasion                   | 14 (50)                    | 65 (35.1)                 | 0.129   |
| Perineural invasion                       | 21 (75)                    | 127 (68.6)                | 0.496   |
| R1 resection                              | 10 (34.5)                  | 37 (19.9)                 | 0.077   |
| Postop complications                      | 10 (33.3)                  | 34 (18.1)                 | 0.053   |
| Hospital stay (days)                      | 13.6 $\pm$ 10.7            | 13.2 $\pm$ 7.1            | 0.872   |
| Adjuvant chemotherapy                     | 23 (82.1)                  | 150 (81.1)                | 0.893   |

RDC, relative difference of CA19-9.; ASA, American Association of Anesthesiologists; BRPC, borderline resectable pancreatic cancer; NACT, neoadjuvant chemotherapy; FOLFIRINOX, 5-fluorouracil, irinotecan, and oxaliplatin; CA 19-9, carbohydrate antigen 19-9; OP, operation; CT, computed tomography; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; WD, well differentiated; MD, moderately differentiated; PD, poorly differentiated; UD, undifferentiated; AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer

**Table S2.** Prognostic factors associated with overall survival in patients with borderline resectable pancreatic cancer and carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentrations of 37–1000 U/ml before neoadjuvant chemotherapy (N = 73).

| Variables                           | Univariate analysis |             |              | Multivariate analysis |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                     | HR                  | 95% CI      | p-value      | HR                    | 95% CI      | p-value     |
| Age                                 | 1.017               | 0.963-1.074 | 0.536        |                       |             |             |
| Sex                                 | 1.094               | 0.452-2.645 | 0.842        |                       |             |             |
| Partial response on preoperative CT | 0.671               | 0.277-1.621 | 0.375        |                       |             |             |
| Adjacent vein resection             | 2.828               | 1.141-7.010 | 0.025        | 2.806                 | 1.116-7.051 | 0.028       |
| Cell differentiation                | WD,MD/PD,UD         | 3.306       | 0.734-14.898 | 0.120                 |             |             |
| T-stage (AJCC 8 <sup>th</sup> )     | 1,2/3,4             | 2.163       | 0.713-6.558  | 0.173                 |             |             |
| N-stage (AJCC 8 <sup>th</sup> )     | N0 (ref)            | 1           |              | 0.432                 |             |             |
|                                     | N1                  | 0.937       | 0.353-2.482  | 0.895                 |             |             |
|                                     | N2                  | 2.215       | 0.590-8.308  | 0.238                 |             |             |
| Tumor regression grade              | 0,1/2,3             | 0.863       | 0.192-3.886  | 0.848                 |             |             |
| Lymphovascular invasion             |                     | 1.568       | 0.644-3.817  | 0.322                 |             |             |
| Perineural invasion                 |                     | 1.358       | 0.490-3.762  | 0.556                 |             |             |
| RDC                                 |                     | 0.420       | 0.184-0.962  | 0.040                 | 0.456       | 0.211-0.986 |
| R1 resection                        |                     | 0.562       | 0.162-1.950  | 0.364                 |             |             |
| Intraoperative transfusion          | 2.614               | 1.079-6.332 | 0.033        | 1.927                 | 0.732-5.072 | 0.184       |

HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; CT, computed tomography; WD, well differentiated; MD, moderately differentiated; PD, poorly differentiated; UD, undifferentiated; AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer; RDC, relative difference of CA19-9.

**Table S3.** Prognostic factors associated with recurrence free survival in patients with borderline resectable pancreatic cancer and carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentrations of 37–1000 U/ml before neoadjuvant chemotherapy (N = 73).

| Variables                           | Univariate analysis |             |             | Multivariate analysis |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                     | HR                  | 95% CI      | p-value     | HR                    | 95% CI      | p-value     |
| Age                                 | 0.978               | 0.209-0.978 | 0.209       |                       |             |             |
| Sex                                 | 0.854               | 0.471-1.548 | 0.602       |                       |             |             |
| Partial response on preoperative CT | 0.875               | 0.479-1.598 | 0.664       |                       |             |             |
| Adjacent vein resection             | 1.804               | 0.991-3.285 | 0.054       | 1.786                 | 0.965-3.307 | 0.065       |
| Cell differentiation                | WD,MD/PD,UD         | 1.783       | 0.538-5.906 | 0.344                 |             |             |
| Tumor regression grade              | 0,1/2,3             | 2.043       | 0.491-8.504 | 0.326                 |             |             |
| Lymphovascular invasion             |                     | 1.078       | 0.582-1.995 | 0.812                 |             |             |
| Perineural invasion                 |                     | 1.116       | 0.606-2.221 | 0.653                 |             |             |
| T-stage (AJCC 8 <sup>th</sup> )     | 1,2/3,4             | 3.366       | 1.482-7.645 | 0.004                 | 1.629       | 0.556-4.770 |
| N-stage (AJCC 8 <sup>th</sup> )     | N0 (ref)            |             | 0.203       |                       |             |             |
|                                     | N1                  | 0.631       | 0.327-1.217 | 0.169                 |             |             |
|                                     | N2                  | 1.475       | 0.559-3.896 | 0.432                 |             |             |
| RDC                                 |                     | 0.276       | 0.132-0.577 | 0.001                 | 0.279       | 0.137-0.570 |
| R1 resection                        |                     | 1.301       | 0.654-2.587 | 0.453                 |             |             |
| Intraoperative transfusion          |                     | 1.269       | 0.663-2.431 | 0.472                 |             |             |

HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; CT, computed tomography; WD, well differentiated; MD, moderately differentiated; PD, poorly differentiated; UD, undifferentiated; AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer; RDC, relative difference of CA19-9.

**Table S4.** Prognostic performance of models that included decreases and normalization of carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentration after neoadjuvant chemotherapy and surgery on overall survival and recurrence free survival for borderline resectable pancreatic cancer.

| Outcome                  |         | C-index | 95% CI      | p-value (1 vs. 2) | p-value (1 vs. 3) | AIC     | 95% CI          | p-value (1 vs. 2) | p-value (1 vs. 3) |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall survival         | Model 1 | 0.680   | 0.531-0.844 | 0.988             | 0.656             | 126.030 | 74.941-182.038  | 0.800             | 0.780             |
|                          | Model 2 | 0.693   | 0.571-0.847 |                   |                   | 126.403 | 75.687-182.315  |                   |                   |
|                          | Model 3 | 0.682   | 0.552-0.832 |                   |                   | 128.347 | 75.899-181.795  |                   |                   |
| Recurrence free survival | Model 1 | 0.624   | 0.540-0.730 | 0.936             | 0.936             | 302.496 | 239.024-355.597 | 0.836             | 0.844             |
|                          | Model 2 | 0.647   | 0.583-0.743 |                   |                   | 302.562 | 240.604-356.290 |                   |                   |
|                          | Model 3 | 0.622   | 0.549-0.709 |                   |                   | 314.809 | 256.086-366.281 |                   |                   |

CI, confidence interval; AIC, Akaike information criterion; Model 1, prognostic model including decreased carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentration during neoadjuvant chemotherapy; Model 2, prognostic model including normalization of carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentration after neoadjuvant chemotherapy; Model 3, prognostic model including normalization of carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentration after surgery.

**Table S5.** Prognostic factors associated with overall survival in patients with locally advanced pancreatic cancer and carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentrations of 37-1000 U/ml before neoadjuvant chemotherapy (N = 60).

| Variables                           | Univariate analysis |               |               | Multivariate analysis |        |                |       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------|----------------|-------|
|                                     | HR                  | 95% CI        | p-value       | HR                    | 95% CI | p-value        |       |
| Age                                 | 1.025               | 0.958-1.097   | 0.469         |                       |        |                |       |
| Sex                                 | 1.577               | 0.607-4.099   | 0.350         |                       |        |                |       |
| Partial response on preoperative CT | 5.331               | 0.213-133.434 | 0.308         |                       |        |                |       |
| Adjacent vein resection             | 1.226               | 0.347-4.325   | 0.752         |                       |        |                |       |
| Cell differentiation                | WD,MD/PD,UD         | 59.675        | 5.955-597.789 | 0.001                 | 86.399 | 5.806-1285.760 | 0.001 |
| T-stage (AJCC 8 <sup>th</sup> )     | 1,2/3,4             | 6.007         | 1.292-27.939  | 0.022                 | 6.047  | 0.910-40.206   | 0.063 |
| N-stage (AJCC 8 <sup>th</sup> )     | N0 (ref)            | 1             |               | 0.724                 |        |                |       |
|                                     | N1                  | 1.623         | 0.433-6.089   | 0.473                 |        |                |       |
|                                     | N2                  | 1.643         | 0.315-8.562   | 0.556                 |        |                |       |
| Tumor regression grade              | 0,1/2,3             | 1.500         | 0.181-12.391  | 0.707                 |        |                |       |
| Lymphovascular invasion             |                     | 1.606         | 0.480-5.380   | 0.442                 |        |                |       |
| Perineural invasion                 |                     | 1.612         | 0.191-13.583  | 0.661                 |        |                |       |
| RDC                                 |                     | 0.828         | 0.434-1.579   | 0.566                 |        |                |       |
| R1 resection                        |                     | 3.861         | 1.171-12.728  | 0.026                 | 3.776  | 0.990-14.403   | 0.052 |
| Intraoperative transfusion          |                     | 0.890         | 0.109-7.233   | 0.913                 |        |                |       |

HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; CT, computed tomography; WD, well differentiated; MD, moderately differentiated; PD, poorly differentiated; UD, undifferentiated; AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer; RDC, relative difference of CA19-9.

**Table S6.** Prognostic factors associated with recurrence free survival in patients with locally advanced pancreatic cancer and carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentrations of 37–1000 U/ml before neoadjuvant chemotherapy (N = 60).

| Variables                           | Univariate analysis |             |              | Multivariate analysis |        |             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------|
|                                     | HR                  | 95% CI      | p-value      | HR                    | 95% CI | p-value     |
| Age                                 | 0.995               | 0.966-1.025 | 0.743        |                       |        |             |
| Sex                                 | 0.990               | 0.612-1.601 | 0.966        |                       |        |             |
| Partial response on preoperative CT | 1.118               | 0.485-2.579 | 0.793        |                       |        |             |
| Adjacent vein resection             | 1.605               | 0.803-3.207 | 0.180        |                       |        |             |
| Cell differentiation                | WD,MD/PD,UD         | 3.145       | 0.931-10.624 | 0.065                 |        |             |
| Tumor regression grade              | 0,1/2,3             | 1.382       | 0.531-3.601  | 0.508                 |        |             |
| Lymphovascular invasion             |                     | 1.913       | 0.938-3.901  | 0.075                 |        |             |
| Perineural invasion                 |                     | 1.417       | 0.582-3.451  | 0.442                 |        |             |
| T-stage (AJCC 8 <sup>th</sup> )     | 1,2/3,4             | 2.772       | 1.147-6.703  | 0.024                 | 2.545  | 1.060-6.110 |
| N-stage (AJCC 8 <sup>th</sup> )     | N0 (ref)            |             |              | 0.082                 |        |             |
|                                     | N1                  | 1.958       | 0.894-4.289  | 0.093                 |        |             |
|                                     | N2                  | 2.516       | 1.020-6.206  | 0.045                 |        |             |
| RDC                                 |                     | 0.633       | 0.460-0.872  | 0.005                 | 0.634  | 0.451-0.889 |
| R1 resection                        |                     | 1.695       | 0.780-3.685  | 0.183                 |        |             |
| Intraoperative transfusion          |                     | 0.793       | 0.185-3.392  | 0.754                 |        |             |

HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; CT, computed tomography; WD, well differentiated; MD, moderately differentiated; PD, poorly differentiated; UD, undifferentiated; AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer; RDC, relative difference of CA19-9.

**Table S7.** Prognostic performance of models that included decreases and normalization of carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentration after neoadjuvant chemotherapy and surgery on overall survival and recurrence free survival for locally advanced pancreatic cancer.

| Outcome                  |         | C-index | 95% CI      | p-value (1 vs. 2) | p-value (1 vs. 3) | AIC     | 95% CI          | p-value (1 vs. 2) | p-value (1 vs. 3) |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Overall survival         | Model 1 | 0.919   | 0.812-1.000 | 0.972             | 0.616             | 49.475  | 14.014-73.311   | 0.944             | 0.892             |
|                          | Model 2 | 0.907   | 0.764-0.989 |                   |                   | 49.327  | 15.632-73.872   |                   |                   |
|                          | Model 3 | 0.896   | 0.771-0.988 |                   |                   | 49.476  | 15.575-74.287   |                   |                   |
| Recurrence free survival | Model 1 | 0.646   | 0.553-0.767 | 0.932             | 0.908             | 193.838 | 134.477-241.639 | 0.992             | 0.992             |
|                          | Model 2 | 0.606   | 0.521-0.717 |                   |                   | 199.314 | 140.454-246.144 |                   |                   |
|                          | Model 3 | 0.661   | 0.578-0.763 |                   |                   | 193.408 | 133.617-241.855 |                   |                   |

CI, confidence interval; AIC, Akaike information criterion; Model 1, prognostic model including decreased carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentration during neoadjuvant chemotherapy; Model 2, prognostic model including normalization of carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentration after neoadjuvant chemotherapy; Model 3, prognostic model including normalization of carbohydrate antigen 19-9 concentration after surgery.