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Table 1. Primary clinical endpoint in randomised trials assessing the interval between completion of neoadjuvant treatment and surgery

Randomised trials	Patient number	Treatment schedule	Primary clinical endpoint
Lyon R90-01 ^{13,67}	210	RT followed by 2-week interval to surgery vs RT followed by 6-8 weeks interval to surgery	Sphincter-sparing surgery
GRECCAR-6 ¹⁴	265	5-FU or Capecitabine CRT followed by 7-week interval to surgery vs CRT followed by 11-week interval to surgery	pCR
British trial ¹⁵	237	Capecitabine CRT followed by 6-week interval to surgery vs capecitabine CRT followed by 12-week interval to surgery	MRI-based T-Downstaging
Turkish trial ¹⁶	327	Capecitabine CRT followed by <8-week interval to surgery vs Capecitabine CRT followed by >8-week interval to surgery	pCR
Stockholm III ⁴³	840	SCRT followed by surgery within 1 week vs SCRT followed by surgery after 4-8 weeks vs RT followed by surgery after 4-8 weeks	Time to local recurrence

Abbreviations: pCR, pathological complete response; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; 5-FU, 5-Fluorouracil; CRT, chemoradiotherapy; SCRT, short-course radiotherapy