

Answering reviewers

1 - Define the abbreviations in the abstract and text

All other abbreviations were defined except "CRC" in the abstract. This is fixed.

2 - the "aim" needs to be clarified

"Aim" in the abstract is clarified.

3 - the language needs revisions and polishing

Language was revised by "Bioscience-writers, LLC (www.biosciencewriters.com)", September 27th, 2016 and we will upload the certificate file.

4 - the core tip is not written properly - the core tip is not the authors names! - it should have been written properly or left blank.

Core tip was not written properly, thus this was written; Evidence from preclinical studies has identified the anti-tumor effect of metformin, however, the factors related to the effectiveness of metformin in diabetic colorectal cancer(CRC) patients have not been identified yet. Identifying subgroup patients who benefit from metformin treatment is important for further studies, and a strong gender-dependent difference of metformin effect in advanced CRC patients has been identified in this present study.