

Reviewer's code: 02533177

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

On the whole, the study design and execution is well done and interesting in that it uniquely outlines potential risk factors for early-onset CRC by comparing a cohort of later-onset CRC (≥ 50 years) as well as control cohort defined as individuals 25-49 years without diagnosis of CRC within the same timeline. That is significant for early CRC screening. However, there are some small issues in this manuscript. 1. There are some spelling and grammatical errors throughout the manuscript. Please revise carefully. 2. The part of "MATERIALS AND METHODS": to be more clear, it needs to be divided into some subsections with subheadings.

1. Our medical editor, Payal Thakkar, has revised the wording and spelling of our manuscript.
2. Materials and Methods section has been subdivided to make it clearer.
3. Audio core tip has been added
4. Article highlights section has been added to the final manuscript

Thank you to the editors for the revision comments. The authors and I hope the manuscript will be appropriate for publication soon. Thank you for your time and consideration.