

September 21, 2023

Dear editors and reviewers :

Thank you very much for providing us an opportunity to revise our manuscript (Manuscript NO: 86868 and Title: Development and Validation of a Nomogram for Preoperative Prediction of Tumor Deposits in Colorectal Cancer).

The comments from editors and reviewers are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. In this revision, we have addressed all the concerns in detail and made necessary changes to the article according to the valuable comments of the chief editor and the reviewer.

My responses to the comments are described as follows. We hope that our revised manuscript is now suitable for your requirement.

Thank you very much again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jian-hua Xu

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We appreciate all the editor's and reviewers' positive comments as well as the constructive suggestions as discussed below.

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade A (Excellent)

Novelty of This Manuscript: Grade A (Excellent)

Creativity or Innovation of This Manuscript: Grade A (Excellent)

Scientific Significance of the Conclusion in This Manuscript: Grade A (Excellent)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: Accurately assessing the presence of TDs before surgery remains challenging. This manuscript addressed this gap by constructing a nomogram that can accurately and effectively predict the likelihood of TDs in patients with colorectal cancer. The nomogram identify individuals at high risk of recurrence, providing valuable insights for personalized treatment strategies and ultimately enhancing prognosis. The manuscript demonstrated curve which shows that within a threshold probability range of 7% to 78%, using this predictive model to identify the presence of TDs in colorectal cancer patients can lead to net clinical benefits. The limitation in the study is the inability to establish the association between gender and TDs. The manuscript suggest higher risk in female patients to lymph node metastasis.

Response: Thank you very much for your recognition of our study and your valuable comments. As you said, the limitation of the study is the inability to determine the association between gender and TDs. We reviewed a lot of literature. Since there are few studies on the prediction of TDs, and no study has explained the relationship between gender and TDs, we speculated that this may be related to female being more likely to have lymph node metastasis according to some relevant literature, and then this needs more study to prove. We hope that we can further study this issue in the future to reveal the relationship. Regarding the language issue, we have once again submitted the article to a professional organization for language polishing. We know we have some imperfections, thank you for your high level comments again, and we are always trying to improve our research and writing skills. Thank you very much for your attention and time. Looking forward to hearing from you. Best regards.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: The prognostic approach is an important topic in current medicine. Of all cancers, colorectal is one of the most important. It is mandatory to use any approach to improve clinical outcomes. This work aims to make a nomogram of characteristics that can be useful in daily clinical practice scenarios. I think it's good work and destined to be published. It only requires a general check for grammatical errors (Table 1 has a random “%” punctuation mark, for example)

Response: Thank you for your comments and recognition of our work, and for correcting the details of our article. We admire your seriousness. We have checked and made necessary changes to the grammar of the whole article, and once again submitted the article to a professional organization for language polishing, hoping to make you satisfied. We are always striving to improve our research work and our writing. Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Best regards.