

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

**Manuscript NO:** 91027

**Title:** Effectiveness of fecal DNA syndecan-2 methylation testing for detection of colorectal cancer in a high-risk Chinese population

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 01518946

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor, Research Fellow, Senior Consultant Dermatologist

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-12-21

**Reviewer chosen by:** Yu-Lu Chen

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-12-21 01:38

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-12-22 01:29

**Review time:** 23 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript demonstrates the usefulness of Syndecan-2 DNA methylation in stool in screening test for colorectal cancer. Syndecan-2 DNA methylation has already been kitted out as a diagnostic method and its usefulness has been reported. The present study demonstrates that the negative predictive value (NPV) is extremely high not only for colorectal cancer but also for polyps, which can be regarded as pre-cancerous lesions, using a large number of cases. The authors should clarify following issue before publication. 1. If the cost of the test is not taken into account, it seems to be a very efficient test method, but there is no comparison with the commonly performed fecal occult blood test. The authors should investigate comparative study in this cohort between Syndecan-2 DNA methylation test and fecal occult blood test with ROC analysis . 2. It would also add to the scientific value of this paper to clarify whether Syndecan-2 DNA methylation is found in cancerous areas or polyp tissue, or whether it is also found in normal colorectal tissue surrounding the cancer. Even in a limited number of cases, the authors should consider these analyses for the acceptance of the paper.