



BAISHIDENG PUBLISHING GROUP INC

8226 Regency Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588, USA

Telephone: +1-925-223-8242 Fax: +1-925-223-8243

E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com <http://www.wjgnet.com>

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 21986

Manuscript Type: REVIEW

23 October 2015

Dr Mark Ong and Prof John Schofield

Department of Histopathology

Maidstone Hospital

Maidstone

Kent ME16 9QQ

United Kingdom

Dear Reviewer,

Ref: Assessment of Lymph Node Involvement in Colorectal Cancer

Manuscript 21986

We enclose herein the revised manuscript.

In response to comment number 1, we have integrated the sections on 'Additional Lymph Node Variables' as a sub-section under the heading of 'The Role of the Pathologist'. Some sub-sections have been moved to maintain a logical flow and

maintain readability. Some areas have also been edited to remove duplication that resulted from combining these sections.

The section on 'Intra-operative Procedures and Special Techniques' refers to techniques performed by surgeons and would be better placed under the section on Surgery. However, at the reviewer's request, we have integrated this under the Pathology section with a short brief reference to these techniques at the end of the Surgery section.

We have interpreted comment number 2 as a request to include a discussion on the clinical implications of isolated tumour cells and micrometastases, in particular, whether these warrant adjuvant chemotherapy. We have included a discussion of UK practice and emphasised the difficulty in knowing how to interpret these findings.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Ong and John Schofield