

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 37372

**Title:** Novel biomarkers for patient stratification in colorectal cancer: A review of definitions, emerging concepts, and data

**Reviewer's code:** 03656600

**Reviewer's country:** China

**Science editor:** Xiu-Xia Song

**Date sent for review:** 2018-03-08

**Date reviewed:** 2018-03-09

**Review time:** 21 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This review described a current definition laid out by Cancer Research UK and the current status of those biomarkers in colorectal cancer, which is helpful to investigators to get out of traditional definition that a biomarker is a tumour characteristic. However,



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there are several minor mistakes. For example, in "MSI-high tumours have been shown to have a better outcome than patients with MSH-low tumours", MSH should be MSI.

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

##### ***Google Search:***

- ☐ The same title
- ☐ Duplicate publication
- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No

##### ***BPG Search:***

- ☐ The same title
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- ☐ Plagiarism
- ☐ [Y] No

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 37372

**Title:** Novel biomarkers for patient stratification in colorectal cancer: A review of definitions, emerging concepts, and data

**Reviewer's code:** 00008736

**Reviewer's country:** Germany

**Science editor:** Xiu-Xia Song

**Date sent for review:** 2018-03-08

**Date reviewed:** 2018-03-09

**Review time:** 23 Hours

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a comprehensive and concise summary of biomarker aspects for colorectal cancer, highlighting current achievements but also indicating gaps in the area. Relevant Topics are adequately covered. It is suggested also to refer to the recent FDA-NIH biomarker



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guidance document (BEST): <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK326791/> It is suggested to more critically discuss the clinical robustness and usability of miRNA Panels. The existing studies have Major limitations, e.g. small sample size, non-standardized sampling procedures, etc. Emerging Technologies like liquid biopsies, more current classification Systems (CSM), next Generation sequencing and esp the Need for biomarkers for immunotherapy approaches are missing and should be added. Minor Points: Please do not use "gender" when "sex" is meant Please discuss B-raf Status in Addition to K-ras The authors refer to MSI and Kras testing for the use of "monoclonal antibody-based adjuvant therapy". Please specify!

#### **INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT**

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## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 37372

**Title:** Novel biomarkers for patient stratification in colorectal cancer: A review of definitions, emerging concepts, and data

**Reviewer's code:** 03476292

**Reviewer's country:** Israel

**Science editor:** Xiu-Xia Song

**Date sent for review:** 2018-03-08

**Date reviewed:** 2018-03-10

**Review time:** 2 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not	language polishing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision	topic of the manuscript:
publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I wish to commend the authors for a clear review, extensive and concise of a subject relevant to clinicians, specifically surgeons and oncologists. This study is highly informative but lacks clear advices for using the described biomarkers in clinical practice.



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As most of the biomarkers (and radiological markers) are still in experimental phases and are not relevant currently in the ongoing treatment of patients suffering from CRC, the only thing i would advocate for is a paradigm or prehaps a illustrated figure of what is currently used by clinicians for decision making in patients suffering from CRC. I thank the authors for an enjoyable read.

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## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 37372

**Title:** Novel biomarkers for patient stratification in colorectal cancer: A review of definitions, emerging concepts, and data

**Reviewer's code:** 00503405

**Reviewer's country:** Hungary

**Science editor:** Xiu-Xia Song

**Date sent for review:** 2018-03-08

**Date reviewed:** 2018-03-12

**Review time:** 4 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language	(High priority)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	<input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of	(General priority)	Peer-reviewer's expertise on the
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publish	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
		<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection	<input type="checkbox"/> General
			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The aim of this original review is to examine and critically appraise novel imaging and molecular-based approaches and highlight key findings for biomarker potential in the EMT pathway. The manuscript is of great clinical importance, well written, and well



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organized. Some points, however, need minor revision: - According to available data what do the authors think about the use of liquid biopsies as biomarkers? - Where do authors classify methylated SEPT9 as a CRC biomarker, and what is its significance? - Regarding EMT and MET what kind of other useful markers can be act as biomarkers? After major revision I suggest to accept is for publication.

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## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 37372

**Title:** Novel biomarkers for patient stratification in colorectal cancer: A review of definitions, emerging concepts, and data

**Reviewer's code:** 00043396

**Reviewer's country:** Singapore

**Science editor:** Xiu-Xia Song

**Date sent for review:** 2018-03-08

**Date reviewed:** 2018-03-13

**Review time:** 4 Days

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY	LANGUAGE QUALITY	CONCLUSION	PEER-REVIEWER STATEMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept	Peer-Review:
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			<input type="checkbox"/> No expertise
			Conflicts-of-Interest:
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
			<input type="checkbox"/> No

### SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

An interesting albeit very technical paper. However, it brings together in one paper, many of the new advances and thinking regarding cancer biomarkers, which is helpful for clinicians in this field.

## INITIAL REVIEW OF THE MANUSCRIPT

### *Google Search:*

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