

Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Major revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** First, this manuscript is not the first letter or review about the application and future scenarios of liquid biopsy in colorectal cancer. I have found some papers on PubMed. In this case, this letter is lacking in novelty. Second, the letter only gave us a brief review of the application and future scenarios of liquid biopsy in colorectal cancer. This manuscript did not bring us some unique perspective of liquid biopsy in CRC. Third, I have checked other letters published in this Journal previously, maybe the format of this letter is not correct. This letter is lacking in abstract and keywords, please revise it.

**Author response:** Thank you for evaluating our manuscript. This is an invited editorial manuscript that aims to provide an overview of the concept of liquid biopsy in the clinical application of colorectal cancer. Therefore, we have reported the current knowledge of the possible applications of liquid biopsy in colorectal cancer with some suggestions for future perspectives. In accordance with the last observation, we have revised the manuscript adapting it to the format required for writing an editorial.

Reviewer #2:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade B (Very good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** In their editorial manuscript »Liquid biopsy in colorectal cancer: no longer young, but not yet old« the authors provide a very interesting and clinically oriented overview on the subject of liquid biopsy concept in colorectal cancer. They nicely introduce the clinical need for better molecular assessment of solid tumors based on the emerging systemic therapies, which are highly dependent on the molecular characteristics of tumors. Then they show the development of liquid biopsy concept with detection of different compounds in peripheral blood, starting from circulating tumor cells, circulating tumor DNA and exosomes. In the manuscript, they highlight the crucial clinical scenarios where the liquid biopsy would be of great practical benefit- i.e. the assessment of early cancer, detection of minimal residual disease in localized nodal disease as well as drug effectiveness monitoring in metastatic disease. For all scenarios, they also provide the available data from some of the so far performed clinical studies. They fairly conclude with stating, that the liquid biopsy should not be regarded only as a minimal invasive surrogate of conventional tissue biopsy but could in fact profoundly change the treatment of cancer patients in the future.

**Author response:** We thank the reviewer very much for the positive evaluation of our manuscript.

**(1) Science editor:**

1 Scientific quality: The manuscript describes a "Editorial" of the liquid biopsy in colorectal cancer. The topic is within the scope of the WJG. The corresponding author is the editorial board member of AIG.

(1) Classification: Grade B and Grade C;

(2) Summary of the Peer-Review Report: The authors provide a very interesting and clinically oriented overview on the subject of liquid biopsy concept in colorectal cancer. They nicely introduce the clinical need

for better molecular assessment of solid tumors based on the emerging systemic therapies, which are highly dependent on the molecular characteristics of tumors. However, there are some issues need to be addressed. The questions raised by the reviewers should be answered; and

(3) Format: There is 1 figure.

(4) References: A total of 23 references are cited, including 17 references published in the last 3 years;

(5) Self-cited references: There are 4 self-cited references. The self-referencing rates should be less than 10%. Please keep the reasonable self-citations (i.e., those that are most closely related to the topic of the manuscript) and remove all other improper self-citations. If the authors fail to address the critical issue of self-citation, the editing process of this manuscript will be terminated; and

**In agreement with Editor comment, we have removed the least appropriate self-citations.**

(6) References recommendations: The authors have the right to refuse to cite improper references recommended by the peer reviewer(s), especially references published by the peer reviewer(s) him/herself (themselves). If the authors find the peer reviewer(s) request for the authors to cite improper references published by him/herself (themselves), please send the peer reviewer's ID number to [editorialoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:editorialoffice@wjgnet.com).

The Editorial Office will close and remove the peer reviewer from the F6Publishing system immediately. 2 Language evaluation: Classification: Grade B and Grade B. 3 Academic norms and rules: The authors need to provide the signed Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form and Copyright License Agreement. No academic misconduct was found in the Bing search. 4 Supplementary comments: This is an invited manuscript. The topic has not previously been published in the WJG. The corresponding author has not published articles in the BPG. 5 Issues raised:

(1) I found no "Author contribution" section. Please provide the author contributions;

**We thank the Editor for pointing this out. We have added the author contributions.**

(2) I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;

**The pictures provided are original and created with the software "Biorender.com" (as stated in legends). The figures created with biorender.com are editable only with the same software and should not be modified with power point or others. However, we can make any suggested changes.**

(3) the author should number the references in Arabic numerals according to the citation order in the text. The reference numbers will be superscripted in square brackets at the end of the sentence with the citation content or after the cited author's name, with no spaces. 6 Re-Review: Required. 7 Recommendation: Conditionally accepted.

**The format of references has been standardized according to the "format for references guidelines".**