

Answering Reviewers:

Reviewer#1

1. For the 4 patients who had pulmonary metastasis, 2 underwent curative resection of lung metastasis. Despite this factor will definitely affect the survival, we would like to know how much this factor will affect the survival. So, they are all included in the study.
2. For liver metastasis, all pre-operative factors related to liver metastasis itself including number and size were included in the analysis. For other factors like histological grade and microvascular invasion, they were usually not available pre-operatively without invasive investigations. As this study is to find simple factors for selection of treatment, we only included size and number of liver metastasis for final analysis.
3. We defined the term 'lymph node metastasis' to be the lymph node metastasis from colorectal primary. After resection of colorectal primary, the pathology report will only mention about number of lymph node metastasis found and total number of lymph node found without stating site, this is in accordance with AJCC staging for colorectal cancer. For lymph node metastasis outside of mesenteric lymph node, they were considered distant metastasis and usually not removed. These patients will not be included in this study because it was considered a non-curative resection of primary colorectal cancer.

Reviewer#2

1. Thank you for your comment.