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PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 84686

Title: Fecal microbial biomarkers combined with multi-target stool DNA test improve diagnostic accuracy for colorectal cancer

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00004011
Position: Associate Editor
Academic degree: PhD
Professional title: Professor
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-03-24

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-03-26 07:51

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-03 08:57

Review time: 8 Days and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No creativity or innovation

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Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No scientific significance
Language quality	[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing [Y] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [Y] Minor revision [ ] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[Y] Yes [ ] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

it is an interesting review, recent publications should be added and discussed ie Cancers (Basel). 2022 Dec 28;15(1):192

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Reviewer's code: 02742751
Position: Editorial Board
Academic degree: MD
Professional title: Associate Professor
Reviewer's Country/Territory: Iran
Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-03-24

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-05-17 06:51

Reviewer performed review: 2023-05-17 07:33

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [ ] Grade B: Very good [Y] Grade C: Good [ ] Grade D: Fair [ ] Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	[ ] Grade A: Excellent [Y] Grade B: Good [ ] Grade C: Fair [ ] Grade D: No novelty
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Conclusion	[ ] Accept (High priority) [ ] Accept (General priority) [ ] Minor revision [Y] Major revision [ ] Rejection
Re-review	[ ] Yes [Y] No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [Y] Anonymous [ ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dear Associate Editor Thank you for sending me the article entitled "Fecal microbial biomarkers along with MT-sDNA improve the diagnostic accuracy in colorectal cancer" for review. This trial evaluated the association between some genera of intestinal microbiome, tumor markers and MT-sDNA with colorectal cancer. They showed a positive correlation between MT-sDNA, CEA and AFP with intestinal microbiome. Moreover, eight biomarkers including 6 genera of gut microbiota, MT-sDNA and CEA showed a prominent sensitivity and specificity for the CRC prediction. There are some comments as the followings: 1-Please do not use abbreviations like MT-sDNA in the abstract. 2-Since cirrhosis affect the AFP level, please define if subjects with cirrhosis were excluded from the study. 3-Please define the criteria for selection of healthy subjects. Was colonoscopy performed in the controls? Were subjects with colorectal polyps excluded from control group? 4-Considering the role of environment in gut microbiome, please clarify why only educational status was evaluated in this trial. I think some other important sociodemographic variables (residency in rural-urban area, monthly income...) and food patterns should be matched in the trial arms. These

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shortages could be addressed in as the limitations of study.