

Dear Editor:

We would like to thank you and the reviewers for your consideration and review of our manuscript. We appreciate the reviewers' helpful and thoughtful comments. We have prepared the revised version of the manuscript as recommended.

Thank you again for your consideration and time.

Yours Sincerely,

Qian Liu

Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade D (Fair)

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

**Conclusion:** Major revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:** As for the issue of Plagiarism, we note that it was 17% of the whole manuscript. After analysis of the main part of the document only, it was 11% still. Please manage this.

Answer: Thank you for your comments. We have managed the problem.

Reviewer #2:

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

**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (General priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Early detection of colorectal metastases is very important for the prognosis of the disease. It was emphasized in the study that metastases can be detected early. It is seen that if it is cost-effective, it will be a significant improvement for both patients and physicians.

Answer: Thank you for your comments. It is important for early detection of colorectal metastases, which is critical for both therapy and prognosis of patients with colorectal cancer.

CRC is a common gastrointestinal tumor, and its metastasis is one of the main causes of death in patients with CRC. The liver is the most important target organ of metastasis from CRC and approximately 30%-50% of patients with liver metastasis at diagnosis or after surgery. Early detection of colorectal metastases might bring a good therapy strategy, which may help the patients with a radical surgery. And radical surgery for liver metastases of colorectal cancer is the most important treatment, which can improve overall survival compared with non-operative management or incomplete resection.

If not, liver metastases cannot initially undergo radical resection might demonstrate a poorer prognosis.

With the development of technology, advanced gene microarray and high-throughput sequencing technologies have been used to explore novel biomarker to detect liver metastases of CRC. And our study is based on the gene expression data in the microarray datasets to find novel biomarker for early detection of colorectal metastases.

Reviewer #3:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade A (Excellent)

**Language Quality:** Grade A (Priority publishing)

**Conclusion:** Accept (High priority)

**Specific Comments to Authors:** Your article entitled "Differential Analysis Revealing APOC1 to be a Diagnostic and Prognostic Marker for Liver Metastases of Colorectal Cancer" is very important and well designed. The information given for colorectal cancer and liver metastasis is crucial. APOC1 biomarker has been found to be a useful biomarker for diagnosis and prognosis for colorectal cancer associated with liver metastases.

Answer: Thank you for your thorough and comprehensive review of our manuscript. It is our aim to find a useful biomarker for diagnosis and prognosis for liver metastases of colorectal cancer. We utilized public datasets from three GEO datasets to identify a set of HDEGs between liver metastases of CRC and tumour samples and that of CRC and normal samples. These significantly HDEGs of the three GEO databases take the interaction. And these genes were

screened through an online tool to explore the prognostic value. Finally, we found that APOC1 is a biomarker that is both associated with diagnostic and prognosis of liver metastases of colorectal cancer.