

## ANSWERING REVIEWERS



Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 2429-review.doc).

**Title:** How to select the optimal treatment for first line metastatic colorectal cancer

**Author:** Alexander Stein, Carsten Bokemeyer

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 5776

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Dear Editors,

we would like to thank for the valuable comments mentioned in the three reviews.

Reviewer 1:

It was a privilege to review this well written manuscript on the optimal treatment for first line metastatic colorectal cancer. I recommend the addition of two tables that will make the text more comprehensive to our readers. 1. A table that illustrates available patient's prognosis scores and their applicability in clinical practice based on ref 13-15 1. A table that summarizes the efficacy and tolerability of the available intensive first line regimens for mCRC.

Two tables were added summarizing the requested data.

Reviewer 2:

The review paper by Stein and Bokemeyer is a clear and comprehensive revision of current evidence on first line treatment options for metastatic colorectal cancer. I would just suggest the following minor changes: 1) please expand the section on molecular prognostic factors, which is too short and not very informative. The authors could for example discuss microsatellite instability or circulating tumor cells, which are both emerging as important prognostic factors (see for example PMID: 24042191 and PMID: 23471846) 2) Among future perspectives for predictive-prognostic markers, cancer stem cells should be at least mentioned (see for example PMID: 23409180, PMID: 22231565, PMID: 21926398). 3) Please expand the conclusion by critically summarizing the main treatment options and by discussing unmet needs and fruitful research directions.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PL' or 'LAKATOS' in a stylized, cursive script.

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