

Dear World Journal of Gastroenterology editors,

I am submitting a manuscript entitled Development and Validation of a Prognostic Nomogram for Colorectal Cancer after Surgery to the World Journal of Gastroenterology. The data in our research is from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) database that is the biggest public clinical database about cancer in the United States, not from any medical institutions. Because the data is anonymous and the patients' personal privacy information is not available, informed consent is not required. So, I think we can't provide the informed consent and institutional review board approval document. We will deeply appreciate your consideration if you can approve our submission according to the reality.

Thank you and best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Bowen Li