

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*

Manuscript NO: 69071

Title: Early-onset colorectal cancer: Current insights and future directions

Provenance and peer review: Invited manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05905875

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Philippines

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-06-16

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-06-20 02:02

Reviewer performed review: 2021-06-28 14:37

Review time: 8 Days and 12 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous

statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The paper does not actually present original findings because it is a review article. However, it presents a fresh take on risk factors for colorectal cancer in the context of younger adults with the disease. The review gathers new insights on the development of early-onset colorectal cancer (EOCRC) based on current evidence. Quality of scientific data included in the paper is very good. Key messages are concisely explained without delving much into details of each study cited. With the exception of genetic features, all other risk factors are proposed to be related to the increased incidence of EOCRC but the discussion cites the lack of a clear causative link between them and EOCRC. The paper recognizes the limitations of the studies mentioned, and suggests the need for further research on these topics. Despite several gaps in research on EOCRC risk factors, the review mentions ways to mitigate these risks in young individuals in order to stem the rise in numbers of patients with EOCRC based on current knowledge. This paper concludes by proposing strategies to lower the incidence of this growing global problem, especially in resource-limited regions. It challenges other researchers to pursue further studies on EOCRC. I believe it is well composed and may not need any major revisions. One very minor correction would just involve the names of bacterial organisms in the section on the gut microbiome. Genus name should be capitalized and the species name should be in small letters; the whole scientific name should be italicized.