

Dear editor:

First of all, thank you very much for your time and patience, and thank you very much for the reviewer's comments and suggestions on our manuscript. We have revised this manuscript according to reviewer's suggestions. Answers to questions were as follows:

Replies to reviewer #3:

Excellent study of clinical significance of claudin 7 and construction of prognostic grading system for stage II CRC. The study is well display and manuscript is very well written. I recommend to accept this manuscript after a minor editing. Thank you.

Answer: Thank you for your comments and suggestions. According to your advice, we revised the language errors. The revised contents are shown in blue font.

Thank you again for your time and patience.

Replies to reviewer #4:

The deregulation of claudins can lead to the development of many diseases. Currently, the claudin family is known to contain 27 members, and as one of the important claudin family members, claudin 7 has received more and more attention. It has been reported that claudin 7 is abnormally expressed in many types of tumors, and its deregulation promotes the invasion and metastasis of cancer. However, only limited studies have focused on CRC, and as far as we know, there have been no studies on the clinical significance of claudin 7 in stage II CRC to date. Therefore, it is necessary to clarify the potential value of claudin 7 in stage II CRC. This study designed to assess the protein expression of claudin 7 in stage II CRC and its relationship with clinicopathological features and prognosis. Overall the study is very well designed and the results are very interesting. The sample size is enough and methods are very clear. Discussion is good. I have a minor comment, the figures 3-5 should combined to one pandel.

Answer: According to your advice, the figures 3-5 had been combined to one pandel (Figures 3A-3C). The revised contents are shown in the "results" section (the second paragraph and the third paragraph, red font).

Thank you again for your time and patience.

Yours sincerely,

Xi-Shan Wang, Department of Colorectal Surgery, National Cancer Center/National Clinical Research Center for Cancer/Cancer Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100021, China