

## Answering Reviewers

**Reviewer's code:** 06110600

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The manuscript deals with an interesting and important argument, considering the comprehensive treatments of colorectal cancer, traditional Chinese medicine has demonstrated great potential in improving patients' clinical symptoms, regulate the immune function, improve the life quality, and reduce AEs of chemotherapy. The topic has a clinical relevance. The manuscript is well written: the title reflects the main subject of the article, abstract and keywords well summarize the arguments. The methodology is described in detail and is well structured. The authors prospective observed the scores of traditional Chinese medicine symptoms, Karnofsky performance scale score, levels of T-cell subsets, adverse effects after chemotherapy of the patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer. The discussion is well articulated according to results and the authors have clearly underlined the limitations and drawbacks of the manuscript. A point of strength of the article in my opinion is also that Yiqi Jianpi anti-cancer prescription can be further used in clinical practice. The tables are representatives and of good quality. The manuscript cites appropriately the latest and authoritative references. From the perspective of reviewers, the manuscript is written clearly and it's in acceptable form without any major changes. Moreover, further editing and proofreading are needed to maintain the best sense of reading.

**Answer:** Thank you for your comments. The authors have edited the manuscript carefully.

**Reviewer's code:** 06110746

### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

I found the manuscript entitled "Effect of Yiqi Jianpi Anti-Cancer Prescription Combined with Chemotherapy on Patients with Colorectal Cancer after Operation" original, very interesting, well-structured and with huge impact on real life practice. The incidence of colorectal cancer ranks third and its mortality ranks second worldwide. However, studies have reported that most of patients might have local recurrence or metastasis within 2 years after surgery, and this clinical problem needs to be solved with urgency. In this study, authors observed the clinical efficacy of Yiqi Jianpi anti-cancer prescription combined with chemotherapy in patients with colorectal cancer after operation. They observed the scores of TCM symptoms, KPS score, et al., in 70 patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer after 6 cycles of chemotherapy. Conclusion was that Yiqi Jianpi anti-cancer prescription can effectively improve spleen deficiency, regulate the immune functions, alleviate the AEs of chemotherapy, so as to improve the life quality of patients with good therapeutic effects and application prospect in clinical practice.

Comments/suggestions:

1. Title and key words - well chosen.

**Answer:** Thank you very much.

2-The abstract summarized and reflect the described in the manuscript.

**Answer:** Thank you very much.

3. Introduction contains the most important data to support the importance of the study. Some recent research advances could be included here.

**Answer:** Thank you very much. Recent research advances were included.

4. Material and methods - the paragraphs are generally well structured and explained.

**Answer:** Thank you very much.

5. Results section is well and clearly presented with pertinent statistics.

**Answer:** Thank you very much.

6. Discussion paragraph could be expanded to underline the strength of this study and the potential limitations. Also, directions for future research could be discussed.

**Answer:** Thank you very much. The limit was discussed.

7. Good quality of the Tables.

**Answer:** Thank you very much.

8. References –appropriate, latest and important.

**Answer:** Thank you very much.