Dear editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 17335_revised.doc)

Title: Annexin A10 expression in colorectal cancers with emphasis on the serrated neoplasia pathway

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

1. Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewers.

(1) Numbers of patients in each group (Annexin A10 no-expression group and Annexin A10 expression group) in Figure 3 and 4 were denoted.

(2) Information about adjuvant chemotherapy was described. 785 of 1133 patients received 5-fluorouracil based combination chemotherapy. Annexin A10 expression showed tendency of poor prognosis in both adjuvant chemotherapy-treated and untreated groups, but we couldn't perform statistical analysis due to low proportion of cancers with Annexin A10 expression (data not shown). In stage IV CRCs, adjuvant chemotherapy was an independent prognostic factor for overall survival (Table 3).

(3) The reason of discrepancies in clinicopathologic characteristics of colorectal cancers with Annexin A10 expression was described in discussion section. To describe clinicopathologic and molecular characteristics of markers with low frequency, researchers should gather enough samples (generally more than 500 samples) with precaution of selection bias. Previous studies about Annexin A10 expression in colorectal cancers examined too little samples to describe clinicopathologic characteristics. Our present study examined more than 1,000 consecutively collected samples. This is the strength of our present study.

(4) To validate prognostic value of Annexin A10 expression in stage IV CRCs, we performed multivariate survival analysis for overall survival using Cox proportional hazard model. Despite the number of stage IV CRC patients didn't reach enough population to get enough power, Annexin A10 expression showed considerable prognostic effect (HR: 2.38, 95% CI: 1.18 – 4.83, p value=0.016) (Table 3).

2. We corrected some typos.

Sincerely,

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