Reviewer's code: 02998157

Excellent study. Only some minor spell mistakes should be corrected.

Answer:

We thank the reviewer for the kind comment. Our manuscript has been experts from English speaking countries to test and correct the spell mistakes.

Reviewer's code: 03261540

Excellent study. No comments.

Answer:

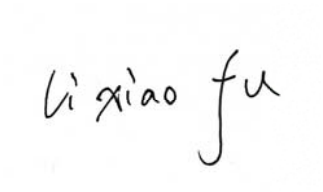
We thank the reviewer for the kind comment.

Reviewer's code: 02447371

This is an execllent study about the ombination of three-gene immunohistochemical panel and MRI-detected extramural vascular invasion to assess prognosis in non-advanced rectal cancer patients. This study included 329 patients with pathologically confirmed rectal cancer who had undergone an MRI without previous treatment. The candidate proteins that were reported to be altered by rectal cancer were examined in tissues by immunohistochemistry. Of the three proteins that were tested, c-MYC, PCNA and TIMP1 were detected with high expression in 35.9%, 23.7% and 58.7% of tumors, respectively. Significant associations were found between the expression of these proteins and the prognosis. Applying these three proteins as an IHC panel could be used to classify patients into different subgroups. The data suggest that the three-protein panel of c-MYC, PCNA and TIMP1combined with MRI-detected EMVI could provide additional prognostic information for preoperative treatment of rectal cancer. The study is well designed and displayed.1 There are some minor revisions needed.2 The discusstion should be checked, and some more recent ref can be discussed.3 Tables and figures are good.

Answer:

All the suggestions were considered relevant and all were accepted. All the references suggested were included in the manuscript. we have added some new references in the discussion. We thank the reviewer's suggestions.



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