

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers' comments concerning our manuscript entitled "Expression and significance of miR-654-5p and miR-376b-3p in patients with colon cancer" (52619). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. Revised portion are marked in red in the paper. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as flowing:

Reviewer #2:

1. Response to comment: In the section of Results, (Fig 1B) should be (Fig 1C) after the sentence of "However, the expression level of miR-376b-3p was lower (0.562 ± 0.564) in colon cancer tissues than in adjacent noncancerous tissues (1.02 ± 0.226) ($P < 0.001$)

Response: I am sorry for my mistake. We change (Fig 1B) to (Fig 1C) and mark in red in the paper

2. Response to comment: In the same section, (Fig. 2A) should be (Fig. 1B) after the sentence of "The overall survival rate of all colon cancer patients with high miR-654-5p expression was significantly lower than that of patients with low miR-654-5p expression ($p=0.044$)."

In the following sentence, "the overall survival rate of all colon cancer patients with high miR-376b-3p expression was significantly lower than that of patients with low miR-376b-3p expression

($p=0.007$) (Fig. 3A).” must be corrected as “the overall survival rate of all colon cancer patients with low miR-376b-3p expression was significantly lower than that of patients with high miR-376b-3p expression ($p=0.007$) (Fig. 1D).”

Response: I am sorry for my mistake. We revise the paper and mark in red in the paper. We change Fig. 2A) to (Fig. 1B) and (Fig. 3A) to (Fig. 1D)

3. Response to comment: In the same section, in pp#7, Fig. 2E and Fig. 3E don't exist and they must be corrected as Fig. 2D and Fig. 3D respectively. (Fig. 3C, Fig. 3E) must be corrected as (Fig. 3B, Fig. 3D) after the sentence of “In contrast, at stages II and IV of colon cancer, patients with low miR-376b-3p expression had low survival rates ($p= 0.042$ and 0.05 , respectively).”

Response: I am sorry for my mistake. We change (Fig. 2E and Fig. 3E) to (Fig. 2D and Fig. 3D). We change (Fig. 3C, Fig. 3E) to (Fig. 3B, Fig. 3D).

4. Response to comment: In Table 1 and 2, I recommend the word of “Site” in place of “Organ” to define the parts of colon

Response: Thank you for your advices. We use the “site” in instead of “organ” and mark in red in the paper

Special thanks to you for your good comments.

We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper.

And here we did not list the changes but marked in red in revised paper.

We appreciate for Editors/Reviewers' warm work earnestly, and hope that the

correction will meet with approval.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.