Reviewer’s report

Title: Identification of hyaluronidases in colorectal cancer

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Reviewer: Yih-Huei Uen

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In this manuscript, Bouga et al. demonstrated that several hyaluronidases were detected in colorectal tissues from patients of colorectal cancer. The profiles of different isoforms in different stages of colorectal cancer were also observed. However, the main theme is not clear and there are some points that need to be addressed by the authors as noted below.

Major compulsory revisions

1. 35 colorectal carcinomas are a small series for a surgical department in Europe. Is this series really consecutive? Or what are the criteria for selecting these patients?
2. The authors need to describe why the three-step extraction was used to measure the activities of different hyaluronidases?
3. How were the activities of different hyaluronidases distinguished and measured in the same extract?
4. According to Figure 2 (B), why hyaluronidase activity was higher in early and late stages but lower in middle stages? Can it be explained by the profiles of different isoforms?
5. As described in the Results section, Hyal-2 and Hyal-3 mRNA expressions were not identified in any samples examined. Why were these data not consistent with the Western blot data shown in Figure 3? It is important to mention how quickly the RNA was obtained from the time of blood collection (the longer it takes to transport samples prior to RNA isolation, the gene expression may change; therefore, it is important to describe how long this time was or how samples was preserved until time of RNA analysis)

Minor Essential Revisions

Linguistics review should be necessary. For example:
Page 8, row 24-25: “…..were mostly of advanced stages…..”.
Page 10, row 9: “…..; significant also overexpression…..”.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being
published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.