Reviewer's report

Title: Tumor location and patient characteristics of colon and rectal adenocarcinomas associating survival and with TNM classes

Version: 1 Date: 16 June 2010

Reviewer: Peter Gibbs

Reviewer's report:

The authors have attempted to address a number of questions utilising data from the Swedish Cancer database, in particular examining the relationship between age, tumour site and survival.

Minor essential revisions
1. I would be interested in more information as to how some of the data is obtained as I am uncertain as to how accurate the data in the registry is. Is the quality of the data ever audited? In particular I would be interested to know how data regarding M stage and family history were obtained by the database, and with respect to M stage is CT staging at diagnosis routine in Sweden? A family history of colorectal cancer in only 5% of patients seems a little low.

2. The more advanced stage at diagnosis in young patients is presumed due to more aggressive tumours, but could be due to delayed diagnosis or delayed presentation. This should be discussed.

3. The limitations of the work have not been addressed. A paragraph or two related to this would be appropriate.

4. The title is a little confusing, an alternative title should be attempted.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests