Reviewer’s report

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

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 29 June 2010

**Reviewer:** Kho Patricia

**Reviewer’s report:**

This paper presents interesting retrospective data that is hypothesis generating. The major strengths of the paper are the large numbers of patients in the cohorts and well collected data.

**Major revision**

1. Limitations of the study need to be stated – retrospective analysis, other possible covariants that could explain effects lacking, treatment differences over different time periods between cohort for survival analysis and cohort with TNM data, etc

**Minor revisions**

1. The objective/aim of the paper is currently included in Background of abstract. It would be clearer if it is stated under its own separate subheading. The title could be shorter and less ambiguous.

2. It is unclear as when the cohorts start and end. Does the first cohort used for survival analysis start from 1990 to 2002 or 2006? Again it is assumed that the 2nd cohort with TNM data is from 2002 to 2006 due to mention on pg4 that TNM started in 2002 and there is 4 years of data. It would be clearer if categorically defined under “subjects and methods”.

3. Addition of a conclusion after the discussion would be useful to summarize the essential points of the paper.

4. TNM should be defined when first used in abstract.

5. There are some grammatical revisions required as some sentences are too long and lack punctuation.

**Discretionary Revisions**

1. It would be more clinically relevant if age groups divided in broader ranges such as <50, 50-64, 64-79, 80+? It might not however make any difference to the final results but these groupings more relevant to clinicians.

2. It would be interesting to know if there was any missing data for TNM staging.
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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests.