Reviewer's report

Title: Changed adipocytokine levels in colorectal tumor patients and morbidly obese patients compared to healthy controls

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2012

Reviewer: Gerd Bobe

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1) Please state your objective in the abstract.
2) Please state the conclusion of your abstract in one succinct sentence so that it answers your objective. Right now, your conclusion is a summary.
3) Throughout the manuscript, please combine one or two sentence paragraphs so that each paragraph has at least 3 sentences.
4) Please revise your objective and hypothesis in the last paragraph of the Introduction to make it more clear and concise.
5) Please do multivariate logistic regression with adjustment for age and gender for examining the effect of tumor stage and tumor grading on serum concentration and show your results in tables. Please remove Figure 2.
6) PAI-1 is a serine protease and not a cytokine. Please correct it throughout the manuscript.
7) MCP-1 is a chemokine and not a cytokine. Please correct it throughout the manuscript.
8) Please provide the inter- and intraassay CV's for your multiplex analysis kits.
9) Please state in the Statistical analysis section if and how you adjusted for multiple statistical comparisons.
10) Please rewrite completely your Discussion. Your first paragraph must be more concise and specific (your main finding is that obesity and colorectal cancer are both associated with increased circulating concentrations of MCP-1, PAI-1, and IL-1alpha, while leptin is associated with higher circulating concentrations in obese patients and with lower circulating concentrations in patients with colorectal cancer. Thus, white adipose tissue may be a potential risk factor for colorectal cancer). After that, please focus on discussing the significant findings of your results short and succinctly. Then, include a strength and limitation section in your discussion, as is commonly done in epidemiological papers.
11) Conclusion section: The goal of a conclusion is to answer your objective. Please revise accordingly.

Minor Essential Revisions:
1) In the manuscript you switch between plasma and serum samples. Please
specify whether you used plasma or serum samples.

2) Throughout the manuscript, please change "levels" to "concentrations".

3) Statistical Analysis last sentence: Please change the last sentence to
"Statistical significance was declared at P # 0.05 and a tendency at 0.05 < P #
0.10."

4) Results 6th line. Please close the parenthesis at the end of the sentence. Please also include the P-values for the gender differences.

5) Results 15th line: The p-value does not correspond with the p-value in Table 2. Please correct the p-value to "p<0.001"

6) Results 19th line: Please change "were elevated just below the level of significance" to "tended to be elevated".

7) Table 2 Row 1 columns 6 and 7: Before ng/ml are <18 and <7. What does that mean? Please remove them.

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

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.