Reviewer’s report

Title: Association of decreased mitochondrial DNA content with colorectal cancer progression

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Reviewer: ling ming tseng

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript analyzed mtDNA copy number from 60 patients with colorectal cancer and showed a correlation between a reduced copy number of mtDNA in colorectal cancer and lymph node metastasis. No other significant correlation was found. There are several drawbacks in the manuscript.

1. There are a lot of typo errors in all text. English edition is needed.
2. In the Materials and Methods section, the authors should provide clear methods and detail experimental conditions, such as the real-time quantitative PCR analysis (cyber green or TaqMan? What kind of polymerase was used?). It is not clear what templates were used for obtaining standard curves.
3. For the 60 patients, it is not clear whether any criteria were used for selecting these patients. Are all specimens obtained without any treatment?
4. In the Discussion section, several statements lack citations.
5. In the discussion for reference 16, it is not a study on hepatocellular carcinoma cell line.
6. In the discussion for reference 17, it is not the authors’ finding, but they stated “we can detect…”?
7. Many papers have been published regarding mtDNA content associated with cancer progression, including gastric cancer, breast cancer and renal cell carcinoma. The authors should make some discussions.
8. This study analyzed a small size (60 cases) of samples. The small sample size might limit the significance of this study. The authors should point out the potential limitations in this study.

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, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.