Reviewer's report

Title: Tumor Biology of Rectal Cancers in Young Patients

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Reviewer: Dr M Ravnik-Glavac

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

The paper tries to define molecular mechanisms (MSI vs. CIN) of rectal cancer development in young patients. Listed below are the comments that need to be addressed.
1. Methods. MSI analysis. MSI was determined using the mononucleotide markers BAT25, BAT26, BAT40 and the dinucleotide markers D2S123 and D17S250. In this context recheck the sentence: Fluorescently labelled forward primers were used for the PCR reactions: Tet(green) for BAT25, Fam (blue) for BAT26 and BAT34C4(?)...
2. Methods. MSI analysis. The sentence: The tumors were classified as MSI-high if at least 2/3 markers displayed MSI... should be corrected to: The tumors were classified as MSI-high if at least 2/5 markers displayed MSI...
3. Methods. KRAS mutations. Mutation detection method is not mentioned and described.
4. Methods. On several places -u should be replaced by -uM.
5. There are some typing errors (i.e. P8L11 evaluated, P8L17 localization, P11L21 phosphorylate...) that should be corrected.
6. Fig. 1 has to be mentioned and included in the proper place in the text.
7. Table 3. Use Tumor No. in the title for fist column instead of R no. For description of KRAS mutations use appropriate nomenclature.

Competing interests:

None declared.