Reviewer's report

Title: TGF-beta receptor 2 downregulation in tumor associated stroma worsens prognosis and poorly differentiated tumors show more tumor associated macrophages and lower TGF-beta1 expression in colon carcinoma: a retrospective study

Version: 3 Date: 24 April 2007

Reviewer: Yoshifumi Nakayama

Reviewer's report:

General

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

1) In general, sentences in discussion is so long. Then, the important points were difficult to understand. I think there are some sentences which will be better to be divided into two or three sentences.
   In discussion. “Although there was a trend towards -----in large series.”
   “At the primary tumor site macrophage-----early hematogenic metastases.”
   “As in models------are conceivable.”
   In conclusions “In summary-------mechanisms.”

2) Author used some words which indicate the histological type of tumor, such as “he poorly differentiated” in title, “G1+2 vs G3+4” in Table, “high differentiated vs less differentiated” in result, “low grade vs high grade” in table 1. Which is the correct term?

3) In Table 1, tumor site is so small part. Colon will be divided right colon and left colon or cecum, ascending colon, transverse colon, descending colon and sigmoid colon.

4) In multivariate analysis (Table 3), lymph node state will be changed to stage because the number of score is same among these two parameters.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.