Reviewer's report

**Title:** Collagen mRNA levels changes during development of colorectal cancer

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 5 January 2009

**Reviewer:** Yasuhiro Matsumura

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper describes the authors’ investigation into expression profile of several types of collagen in colorectal cancer. The experiments were well-organized. There are, however, several weak points in this paper.

1. There seems no difference of collagen 4 expression between normal colorectal mucosa and colorectal cancer in terms of immunohistochemistry (Fig.1) They, however, claimed that collagen #1(IV) mRNA levels were significantly higher in colorectal cancer than normal mucosa. Were mRNA of normal colon extracted from normal epithelial cells or normal colonic tissue including smooth muscle and stromal cells?

2. How soon did they collect specimens and put them into liquid nitrogen?

3. P.10, L.6 “critical event” is too exaggerated.

**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 that I have no competing interests.