Author's response to reviews

Title: Tumor Budding as a Risk Factor of Lymph Node Metastasis in Submucosal Invasive T1 Colorectal Carcinoma: a retrospective study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report

Title: Tumor Budding as a Risk Factor of Lymph Node Metastasis in Submucosal Invasive T1 Colorectal Carcinoma: a retrospective study

Version: 2

Date: 21 June 2012

Reviewer: Frank Pfeffer

Reviewer's report:

Tumor Budding as a Risk Factor of Lymph Node Metastasis

Reviewer: Frank Pfeffer

The authors have answered the remarks sufficiently. They changed table 1 and added sensitivity, specificity and negative predictive value (NPV). The positive predictive value (PPV) is very low (0.25) and only mentioned in the comment to the reviewer.

Although it is a negative result, the low PPV should be mentioned in the results and discussed. 15 out of 20 patients with tumor budding had no lymph node metastasis! This is important information for the clinicians as well.

I agree with the authors that NPV is a important parameter for the clinician regard the decision local resection alone or additional radical resection.

Tumor budding is an interesting topic and therefore the article is important in its field.

➔ Thank you for your careful review. We agree with you. We revised our manuscript as you mentioned above in results and discussion section. Once again, we appreciate your meticulous review and expect to hear positive answer. Thank you.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests
Reviewer's report

Title: Tumor Budding as a Risk Factor of Lymph Node Metastasis in Submucosal Invasive T1 Colorectal Carcinoma: a retrospective study

Version: 2

Date: 7 June 2012

Reviewer: Ulrich Friedrich Wellner

Reviewer's report:

The authors have improved the manuscript by revision. There are a few orthographic errors to be corrected.

⇒ Thank you for your thorough review. We reviewed our manuscript again. We appreciate your meticulous review and expect to hear positive answer. Thank you.

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.