Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Ulrich Friedrich Wellner

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a well-designed retrospective study aiming at identification of risk factors for lymph node metastasis in T1 colorectal cancer. The methodology, results and conclusions are acceptable. Tumor budding is a well-characterized risk factor in colorectal cancer as has been shown by many previous studies. The authors focus on the subgroup of T1 stage cancer.

I have one minor remark which is: given that in univariate analysis only tumor budding qualifies as a statistically significant risk factor, I feel there is no need for multivariate analysis with inclusion of other non-significant factors.

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