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

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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.

**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