Author's response to reviews

**Title:** Differences in the mutations of K-ras and mitochondrial DNA and in microsatellite instability between Vietnamese and Japanese colorectal cancers

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The Editor
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Dear Editor:

We are pleased to submit the revised version of our manuscript. We have revised the manuscript according to the reviewers’ comments. Point-by-point responses to the reviewers are as follows.

Reviewer #1: Rashmi Prasad

1) Environmental factors

We added a discussion on environmental factors that might be associated with genetic changes in the Discussion section (shown in red, second paragraph, page 11).

2) Sample size

As the reviewer pointed out, our research has a weakness in the small sample size. We described this limitation in the Discussion section (shown in red, last paragraph, page 11).
3) Figures
We replaced Figure.

Reviewer #2: Barbara Pardini

1) Literature from Japan

We cited the Japanese studies on genetic analysis of CRCs (reference Nos. 11, 12, 21-23). We then compared our results with the frequencies of genetic changes in the previous reports in the Discussion section (shown in red).

2) Introduction and Discussion

We revised the Introduction and Discussion sections according to the reviewer’s suggestion (shown in red). Especially, we added a discussion on the possible reasons for the higher frequencies of genetic alterations in Vietnamese CRCs compared with Japanese CRCs (second paragraph, page 11).

4) Title of the paper

We changed the title of our paper. The new title is “Differences in the mutations of K-ras and mitochondrial DNA and in microsatellite instability between Vietnamese and Japanese colorectal cancers.” We think that this title is not misleading.

5) Figures

We replaced Figure.

6) Number of subjects analyzed in the Abstract section

We included the number of subjects analyzed in the Abstract section (shown in red).

7) English proofreading

The manuscript was revised again by a native English-speaking editor.

8) Bias in the period of sampling of the 2 groups

We added the issue of the bias in the sampling period of the 2 groups in the Discussion section (Last paragraph of the Discussion, page 12).

9) Early-onset cancer

The reviewer’s pointing this out is reasonable. We defined “early-onset” to be “under 50 years of age” of the patient, and not to be “under a mean age of 50 years” in the patient groups.

We now hope that our paper will be suitable for publication in BMC Gastroenterology, and we look forward to hearing from you concerning your editorial decision.

Yours sincerely,
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