Reviewer’s report

Title: Rectal aberrant crypt foci (ACF) as a predictor of benign and malignant neoplastic lesions in the large intestine

Version: 1 Date: 29 May 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses a testable research question(s) (brief or other article types: is there a clear objective)?

Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?

No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?

No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?

No - there are issues with the statistics in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?

No - there are minor issues

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Is the current version of this work technically sound? If not, can revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Maybe - with major revisions
GENERAL COMMENTS: The manuscript reported that the number and type of rectal ACF may be a good predictive factor for the presence of polyps located proximally from the splenic flexure and that the type and number of ACF can correlate with the number and specific types of polyps in the large intestine. ACF is commonly considered the early pre-cancerous lesion, the main conclusions of the study were not novel. However, the manuscript analyses the association between the numbers of ACF with clinical pathologic features of patients, which may helpful for us to understand the exact role of ACF in colorectal cancer.

1. The full name of ACF (aberrant crypt foci) should be used in the title of the manuscript.

2. These figures are not understood easily and are suggested to be replaced by several tables.

3. The Results section is poorly presented. The authors should rewrite it and show their main findings clearly.

4. Previous studies reveal that age and dietary patterns of patients can affect the occurrence of colorectal aberrant crypt foci. It is suggested to analyses the effects of age and dietary factors on ACF in their cohort.

5. In the statistical analysis, the results were presented as numerical data, U-test and t-student test were used to determine the statistical significance of their results. As described in the manuscript, the study population was divided into three subgroups according to the number of ACF observed, the authors should analyze their data using other methods, such as X2 test.

Note: This reviewer report can be downloaded - see attached pdf file.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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