Reviewer's report

Title: The role and prognostic value of apoptosis in colorectal carcinoma.

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Reviewer: Chang Cheng-Chi

Reviewer's report:

1. As cited by the authors themselves, they showed that apoptosis activities were increased during the course of tumor progression from early to advanced stages of CRC. As such, the authors fail to explain why the manuscript is devoted to replicating this finding.

2. The authors used TUNEL assay to detect apoptotic cells. They should show the images or higher power views to demonstrate the findings.

3. Because there are many necrotic cells and irregular distribution of these apoptotic cells inside the tumors, they should provide the principles of which the areas of tumors for TUNEL assay they chose. This is the most crucial point in this article, and authors need to clarify this if AI becomes a CRC prognostic marker in the future.

4. Authors should provide the overall survival data of patients, grouped by AI and compared to TNM stage. We are curious to know that whether TNM stage and AI value is the better prognostic marker in CRC

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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