

Supplementary Table 1 The ratio of lymph node metastasis in patients with different T stages (*n* = 137)

Variables	T1	T2	T3	T4	<i>p</i> value
Number of patients	40	26	61	10	<0.001 ^a
Patients with non-metastatic LNs	36 (90.0)	21 (80.8)	38 (62.3)	3 (30.0)	
Patients with metastatic LNs	4 (10.0)	5 (19.2)	23 (37.7)	7 (70.0)	
D1 metastasis	4	5	21	6	
D2 metastasis	0	1	8	1	
D3 metastasis	0	1	0	1	<0.001 ^a
Number of LNs (%)	760	505	1553	231	
Non-metastatic LNs	754 (99.2)	484 (95.8)	1483 (95.5)	214 (92.6)	
Metastatic LNs (%)	6 (0.8)	21 (4.2)	70 (4.5)	17 (7.4)	

LNs: lymph nodes; D1: pericolic/perirectal lymph node; D2: intermediate lymph node; D3: main lymph node.

Supplementary Table 2 The distribution of lymph nodes according to different tumor location (*n*=146)

Variables	Rectal	Sigmoid	Descending	Right colon	<i>p</i> value
Number of LNs (%)	1501	997	257	457	<0.001 ^a
Non-metastatic LNs (%)	1450 (96.6)	937 (94.0)	245 (95.3)	444 (97.2)	

Stained	1346 (92.8)	817 (87.2)	234 (95.5)	315 (70.9)	
Non-stained	104 (7.2)	120 (12.8)	11 (4.5)	129 (29.1)	
D1	83	99	7	102	
D2	15	21	4	10	
D3	6	0	0	17	
Metastatic LNs (%)	51 (3.4)	60 (6.0)	12 (4.7)	13 (2.8)	<0.001 ^a
Stained	23 (45.1)	40 (66.7)	7 (58.3)	7 (29.4)	
D1	17	30	5	3	
D2	6	6	2	2	
D3	0	4	0	2	
Non-stained	28 (54.9)	20 (33.3)	5 (41.7)	6 (70.6)	
D1	17	20	4	5	
D2	8	0	1	1	
D3	3	0	0	0	

LNs: lymph nodes; D1: pericolic/perirectal lymph node; D2: intermediate lymph node; D3: main lymph node