



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 114506

Title: Prognostic impact of tumor deposits in colorectal cancer

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05458761

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree and professional title: MD, PhD, Postdoc

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Albania

Author's Country/Territory: Türkiye

Manuscript submission date: 2025-09-20

Reviewer chosen by: AI Editor

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-09-24 10:53

Reviewer performed review: 2025-09-25 05:22

Review time: 18 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? Not Applicable Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? Yes Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? Yes Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? Yes Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? Yes
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Are the Key Words complete? **Yes**

Is the content of the Introduction adequate? **Not
Applicable**

Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete?
Not Applicable

Are the experimental data presented in the
manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Not
Applicable**

Are the experimental data of the Results true and
reliable? **Not Applicable**

Are the quality and resolution of the images up to
standard? **Not Applicable**

Do the selection and design of the figures and tables
follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Not
Applicable**

Is there any duplication between various parts of the
manuscript and between the main text and the content
presented in the figures and tables? **Not Applicable**

Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in
the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Not
Applicable**

Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **Yes**

Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes**

Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes**

Do authors omit important references? **No**

Are all references related to the topic of the
manuscript? **Yes**

Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No**

Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes**

Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers?
Yes



	Are additional experiments needed for the study? Yes Does the research scope comply with ethics? Yes
Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Language quality	Grade B (Very good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	No
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	Yes
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The Letter to the Editor is well written, highly relevant, and provides meaningful support to the findings of Sun et al., emphasizing the prognostic importance of tumor deposits (TDs) in colorectal cancer.

By discussing both Sun et al.'s novel NLNTD index and evidence from a large-scale population-based cohort, the letter convincingly underlines that TDs are far from



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incidental findings and have direct implications for patient outcomes. The thoughtful discussion of the NLNTD index highlights its potential as a valuable prognostic tool within the N1c subgroup patients, where risk stratification has historically been challenging.

However, the letter could be strengthened by addressing a few minor issues. First, the use of references is occasionally repetitive, which interrupts the flow of the text. Reducing reference repetition so that each reference is used strategically would improve the letter's conciseness without diminishing its academic rigor. Second, some sentences are excessively long, making them more difficult to follow. Simplifying sentence structure would enhance clarity while preserving the scientific weight of the arguments. Third, consistency in the use of abbreviations (OS, DSS, DFS, CSS, NLNs, and TDs) would benefit readers who may not be equally familiar with all oncological outcome measures, thereby improving accessibility of the letter to a broader audience.

The section on NCCN and ESMO high-risk features is particularly valuable, as it situates the discussion of tumor deposits within the practical context of guideline-based adjuvant treatment decisions. However, this portion could be tightened to maintain a sharper focus on the central argument: that TDs constitute an independent adverse prognostic marker and should be explicitly recognized as a high-risk criterion across disease stages. By emphasizing this point more directly, the authors could more strongly convey the clinical urgency of incorporating TDs into standardized treatment algorithms.

Finally, the conclusion could benefit from a more concise and impactful phrasing. It should clearly underline that, despite methodological differences and distinct patient populations, both the large-scale cohort study and Sun et al.'s NLNTD analysis converge on the same conclusion: tumor deposits represent a robust and independent prognostic marker with clear clinical relevance. Explicitly recognizing TDs as a high-risk feature has the potential to refine adjuvant therapy recommendations, improve patient stratification,



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and ultimately contribute to more personalized and effective treatment planning.

In summary, with minor adjustments to citation use, sentence structure, abbreviation consistency, and conclusion clarity, the letter would make an even stronger contribution to the literature. These refinements would not only improve readability and precision but also reinforce the broader clinical importance of TDs in prognostication and therapeutic decision-making in colorectal cancer.



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Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree and professional title: PhD, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Türkiye

Manuscript submission date: 2025-09-20

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Lin Zhang

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-09-26 01:26

Reviewer performed review: 2025-09-27 12:36

Review time: 1 Day and 11 Hours

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? Yes Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? No Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? Yes Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? Yes Are the Key Words complete? Yes Is the content of the Introduction adequate? No
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Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete?

Not Applicable

Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Not Applicable**

Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? **Not Applicable**

Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Not Applicable**

Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? **Not Applicable**

Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? **Not Applicable**

Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? **Not Applicable**

Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? **Not Applicable**

Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? **No**

Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes**

Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes**

Do authors omit important references? **Yes**

Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes**

Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **Yes**

Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes**

Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers?
Yes



	Are additional experiments needed for the study? No Does the research scope comply with ethics? No
Scientific quality	Grade B (Very good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Language quality	Grade C (Good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	No
Conclusion	Major revision
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Overall summary

This is a clear and well cited letter to the editor, successfully emphasizing the importance of tumor deposits in the prognosis of colorectal cancer, and effectively combining the latest literature with our own research data. But the author's discussion is not deep enough. Major revision is required.



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Specific comments

Suggest deepening and expanding from the following perspectives:

1. Increase analysis on the mechanism of tumor sediment formation and its relationship with tumor biological behavior, such as invasiveness and metastatic potential. Introduce the latest molecular biology research to explore the role of molecular markers, signaling pathways, and tumor microenvironment in TD formation. This helps explain why TD is a poor prognostic factor and may provide theoretical basis for targeted therapy.
2. Discuss in detail the similarities and differences in the current criteria for TD and NLN, as well as the controversies that exist, whether there are subjectivity or technical standardization issues in pathological interpretation, and explore how to achieve consistency in multi center and multi person pathological assessments. Resolving uncertainty in evaluation can help with clinical promotion.
3. Based on the clinical treatment process, further analyze how to apply the NLNTD index and TD status specifically to adjuvant therapy decision-making, such as identifying which patients should consider intensified adjuvant chemotherapy or monitoring frequency adjustment due to TD positivity.
4. Expand the exploration of the prognostic significance differences of TD and NLN in different tumor stages (such as early stage II, late stage III-IV) and patient populations (different races, regions, ages, etc.).
5. Emphasize the limitations of current research, such as the small sample size of a single center, and call for multi center, large sample, prospective cohort studies and randomized controlled trials to validate the prognostic value and clinical application effectiveness of the NLNTD index.
6. The potential application of emerging technologies such as AI pathology image analysis and combined detection of immunohistochemical markers in TD and NLN recognition can also be explored.



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7. It is recommended to integrate TD and NLN indicators into existing prognostic scoring systems or risk stratification models, and explore the possibility of combining them with other prognostic factors (such as molecular markers and gene mutation status) to construct a comprehensive prediction model.



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Academic degree and professional title: PhD, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Türkiye

Manuscript submission date: 2025-09-20

Reviewer chosen by: Jia-Lin Zhang

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Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? Yes Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? Yes Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? Yes Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? Yes Are the Key Words complete? Yes Is the content of the Introduction adequate? Yes
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Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete?

Not Applicable

Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? **Not Applicable**

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Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? **Not Applicable**

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Is the Conclusion reasonable? **Yes**

Are all references necessary and reasonable? **Yes**

Do authors omit important references? **No**

Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? **Yes**

Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No**

Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes**

Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers?
Yes



	Are additional experiments needed for the study? No Does the research scope comply with ethics? Not Applicable
Scientific quality	Grade C (Good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Language quality	Grade B (Very good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	Yes
Conclusion	Minor revision
Re-review	Yes
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This letter to the Editor discusses the topic of tumor deposits, introduced through the article “Important role of tumor deposits and negative lymph nodes in prognosis of N1c colorectal cancer patients” (World J Gastroenterol 2025;31:109857). It provides a detailed summary of the reliability and clinical utility of the NLNTD (Negative Lymph Node and



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Tumor Deposit) index proposed by Sun et al., while also acknowledging the limitations of their single-center dataset. The authors further synthesize evidence from their own published work to comprehensively evaluate the clinical applicability and significance of tumor deposits. Additionally, they conduct a systematic review of the literature to analyze the clinical implications of tumor deposits and their value in the management and prognosis of colorectal cancer, emphasizing that tumor deposits should be considered in treatment planning and follow-up strategies.

The manuscript has the following shortcomings:

1、 The term “NLNTD” should be spelled out in full at its first mention.

(NLNTD, tumor deposits (TDs) and negative lymph nodes in N1c colorectal cancer)

2、 The formatting of references does not conform to the citation style of the World Journal of Gastroenterology.

3、 The manuscript was polished solely by the authors in terms of language and grammar, without the use of external professional editing services. (Language Editing Declaration: Although no professional language editing service was used, the manuscript has been thoroughly checked for grammar and clarity by the author.)



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

Manuscript NO: 114506

Title: Prognostic impact of tumor deposits in colorectal cancer

Provenance and peer review: Invited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 07181981

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree and professional title: PhD, Professor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Türkiye

Manuscript submission date: 2025-09-20

Reviewer chosen by: Xin-Liang Qu

Reviewer accepted review: 2025-10-20 05:15

Reviewer performed review: 2025-10-20 05:18

Review time: 1 Hour

Content to be reviewed	Does the manuscript's content fall within the scope of the journal? Yes Is there any Key Word that is not included in the manuscript title? Yes Do authors' affiliations correspond to the content of the manuscript? Yes Does the Abstract contain the contents of each part of the manuscript (IMRaD)? Yes Are the Key Words complete? Yes Is the content of the Introduction adequate? Yes
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	<p>Is the content of the Materials and Methods complete? Yes</p> <p>Is the description of the experiments clear and complete? Yes</p> <p>Are the experimental data presented in the manuscript's biostatistics content reliable? Yes</p> <p>Are the experimental data of the Results true and reliable? Not Applicable</p> <p>Are the quality and resolution of the images up to standard? Yes</p> <p>Do the selection and design of the figures and tables follow the principles of necessity and clarity? Yes</p> <p>Is there any duplication between various parts of the manuscript and between the main text and the content presented in the figures and tables? Yes</p> <p>Are the figures and tables numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the manuscript? Yes</p> <p>Is the content of the Discussion reasonable? Yes</p> <p>Is the Conclusion reasonable? Yes</p> <p>Are all references necessary and reasonable? Yes</p> <p>Do authors omit important references? Yes</p> <p>Are all references related to the topic of the manuscript? Yes</p> <p>Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? Yes</p> <p>Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? Yes</p> <p>Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers? Yes</p> <p>Are additional experiments needed for the study? Yes</p> <p>Does the research scope comply with ethics? Yes</p>
<p>Scientific quality</p>	<p>Grade C (Good)</p>



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Novelty of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Language quality	Grade C (Good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	Yes
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	Yes
Conclusion	Accept
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

none



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Do authors only cite their own earlier publications? **No**

Is the manuscript's text correct, concise, and clear? **Yes**

Will the manuscript's content be of interest to readers?
Yes



	Are additional experiments needed for the study? No Does the research scope comply with ethics? Not Applicable
Scientific quality	Grade C (Good)
Novelty of this manuscript	Grade B (Very Good)
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	Grade C (Good)
Language quality	Grade C (Good)
Does this manuscript describe a study of the existing knowledge system?	Yes
Does this manuscript report a revolutionary innovation?	No
Does this manuscript report an unconventional innovation?	Yes
Conclusion	Accept
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: Anonymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: No
Are your review comments generated by AI tools?	No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors have meticulously revised the manuscript and provided professional, point-by-point responses to all reviewers' comments, significantly enhancing the scientific rigor and clarity of the work. The revised version now fully aligns with the journal's publication standards.

1. Comprehensively addressed all reviewer comments with detailed point-by-point



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responses and corresponding textual modifications throughout the manuscript. The additional artical data and statistical analyses have significantly strengthened the study's conclusions.

2.Strengthened the theoretical framework through expanded discussion of potential mechanisms and more nuanced interpretation of their findings in the context of existing literature. The limitations section now appropriately acknowledges the study's constraints while maintaining the significance of the contributions.

3.Improved scholarly presentation with additional references to recent relevant publications and refined language that enhances clarity without compromising scientific precision.