

Copyright Statement and Evidence for Figure 1

1. Statement of Derivation and License Compliance

The schematic diagram in Figure 1 of the above manuscript is a derivative work. It was created by modifying the “Rectum” icon authored by Servier.

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Attribution: Full credit is provided in the revised figure caption.

Indication of Changes: All modifications (listed below) are explicitly stated.

No Endorsement: The credit is factual.

Our Modifications:

We used the original icon as a base and added the following elements for our study:

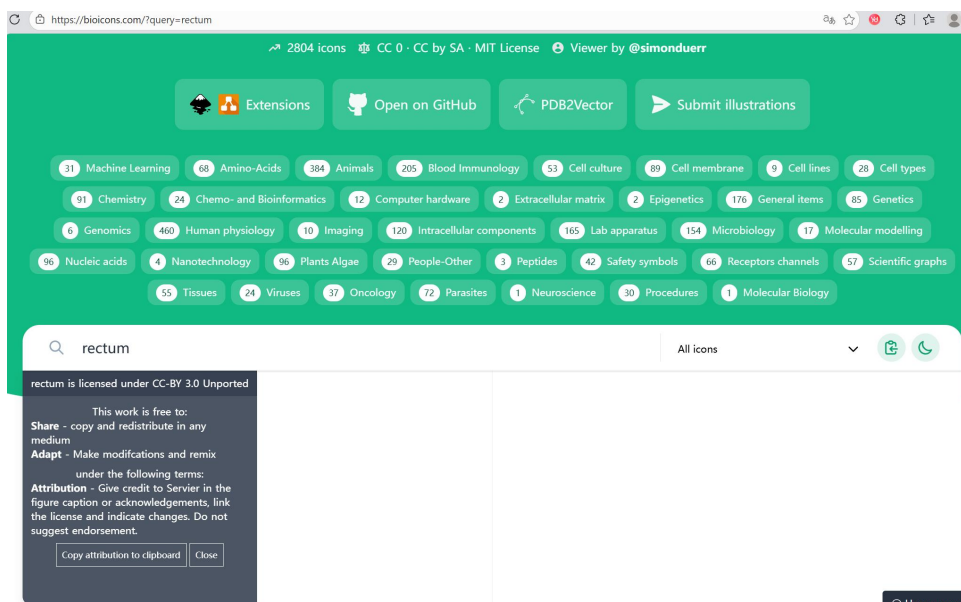
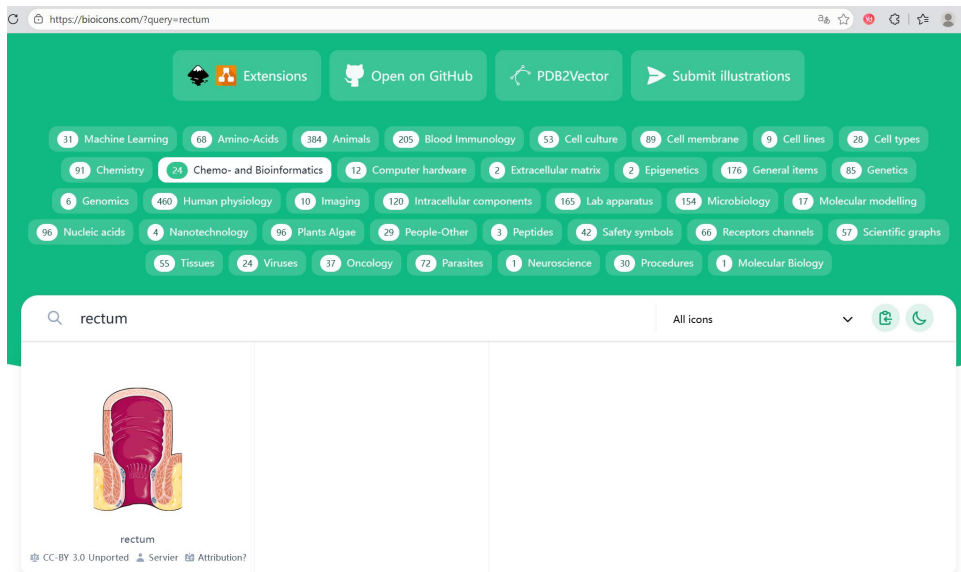
Blue arrows and dashed lines to delineate anatomical boundaries.

Text labels for “non-ultra-low group (>3cm)”, “ultra-low group (≤3cm)”, and “dentate line”.

2. Evidence of the Original Work and Its License

Source URL (Permanent Link): [Bioicons - high quality science illustrations](#)

Screenshot of the Source Page:



3. Final Corrected Caption for Figure 1

The compliant caption implemented in the revised manuscript is:

Figure 1 Schematic illustration of tumor location grouping based on distance from the dentate line. Rectum icon by Servier (<https://smart.servier.com/>) is licensed under CC-BY 3.0 Unported (Supplementary material). Modifications include the addition of blue arrows and dashed lines for delineating boundaries and labels for non-ultra-low group (> 3 cm), ultra-low group (≤ 3 cm) and dentate line.