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Peer Review

Review of: "Colorectal Cancer on the Rise in Children and Young Adults: A Series of Three Cases and Its Implications for Early Detection"

Fangzhou Liu[1]

1. Case Western Reserve University, United States

The topic is relevant and important given the increasing attention to early-onset colorectal cancer and the diagnostic challenges it presents in pediatric populations. While the case series is informative, several areas would benefit from clarification and improvement to strengthen its clinical and educational value:

1. Novelty and Contribution: The manuscript would benefit from a clearer articulation of its unique contribution. As the cases follow expected presentations and treatment trajectories for mucinous adenocarcinoma, the authors should clarify how these cases differ from existing literature or what new insights they offer.
2. Overgeneralization in Conclusions: The conclusion makes broad claims about early detection, screening needs, and poor prognosis based on three cases. While this is a valid area of concern, the authors should more clearly frame their conclusions as illustrative or hypothesis-generating rather than broadly generalizable.
3. Missing Clinical Details: Several important case elements are either briefly described or omitted—for example, follow-up timelines, treatment responses, and survival status. Providing consistent and structured clinical information for all three cases would improve clarity and reader engagement.
4. Discussion Clarity and Redundancy: The same core points (rarity, diagnostic delay, poor prognosis) are repeated across multiple paragraphs without adding new insights. In addition, the discussion

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conflates mucinous and signet-ring subtypes without clearly defining their relevance or differences in the pediatric population.

5. Genetic Considerations: While the discussion appropriately references Lynch Syndrome, the absence of genetic testing in the reported cases is a significant limitation. The authors should acknowledge this more explicitly and discuss how it affects the interpretation of familial or hereditary risk.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.