

Supplementary Table 1: Multivariate analysis of prognostic factors for disease-free survival (DFS) in patients

with stage I+II disease

Variable	B	p	Exp(B)	95% CI for exp(B)
Age	-0.117	0.556	0.889	0.602–1.314
Sex	-0.104	0.723	0.901	0.508–1.601
Primary tumor location	0.208	0.356	1.232	0.791–1.918
T stage	0.433	0.065	1.543	0.973–2.446
Differentiation	-0.336	0.324	0.715	0.366–1.394
Venous invasion	1.371	<u>0.001</u>	3.938	1.898–8.170
Neural invasion	0.299	0.436	1.348	0.636–2.861
MMR status	-0.586	0.117	0.557	0.268–1.157
Carcinoma percentage	-0.044	0.159	0.957	0.900–1.017
Neutrophil-central region	-0.0167	0.582	0.846	0.467–1.534
Neutrophil- invasive margin	-0.080	0.806	0.923	0.487–1.749
Lymphocytes-central region	-0.402	0.250	0.669	0.338–1.327
Lymphocytes- invasive margin	-0.104	0.783	0.901	0.429–1.892
CEA	0.082	0.779	1.085	0.615–1.915
CRP	0.461	0.156	1.586	0.839–2.999
NLR	0.435	0.159	1.544	0.844–2.827
Negative LN		<u>0.004</u>		
0–3	1.586	0.001	4.885	1.977–12.069
4–6	0.450	0.327	1.569	0.637–3.864

7–12	0.774	0.020	2.169	1.133–4.153
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MMR, mismatch repair, CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; CRP, C reactive protein; NLR, neutrophil to

lymphocyte ratio; LN, lymph node

Supplementary Table 2: Multivariate analysis of prognostic factors for disease-free survival (DFS) in patients with stage III disease

Variable	B	p	Exp(B)	95% CI for exp(B)
Age	0.147	0.421	1.158	0.810–1.655
Sex	-0.047	0.864	0.954	0.557–1.633
Primary tumor location	0.317	0.297	1.373	0.757–2.490
T stage	-0.045	0.860	0.956	0.581–1.575
Differentiation	-0.316	0.302	0.729	0.400–1.328
Venous invasion	0.074	0.786	1.077	0.630–1.841
Neural invasion	0.326	0.268	1.385	0.778–2.465
MMR status	-1.075	0.125	0.341	0.087–1.345
Carcinoma percentage	-0.028	0.319	0.972	0.919–1.028
Neutrophil-central region	-0.111	0.661	0.895	0.543–1.473
Neutrophil- invasive margin	0.127	0.616	1.135	0.691–1.864
Lymphocytes-central region	-0.351	0.308	0.704	0.358–1.382
Lymphocytes- invasive margin	-0.903	<u>0.033</u>	0.405	0.177–0.929
CEA	0.154	0.575	1.166	0.682–1.995
CRP	-1.075	0.077	0.360	0.116–1.115
NLR	0.347	0.274	1.415	0.760–2.635
Negative LN		<u>0.015</u>		
0–3	0.990	0.050	2.692	1.000–7.248
4–6	1.157	0.002	3.181	1.530–6.612

7–12	0.505	0.138	1.657	0.850–3.232
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MMR, mismatch repair, CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; CRP, C reactive protein; NLR, neutrophil to

lymphocyte ratio; LN, lymph node

Supplementary Table 3: Multivariate analysis of prognostic factors for overall survival (OS) in patients with stage IV disease

Variable	B	p	Exp(B)	95% CI for exp(B)
Age	0.445	<u>0.001</u>	1.561	1.197–2.035
Sex	-0.118	0.555	0.889	0.601–1.315
Primary tumor location	-0.099	0.574	0.905	0.640–1.280
T stage	0.312	0.062	1.367	0.984–1.899
Differentiation	0.192	0.323	1.212	0.827–1.776
Venous invasion	0.027	0.888	1.028	0.702–1.503
Neural invasion	0.631	<u>0.003</u>	1.880	1.237–2.859
MMR status	0.739	0.103	2.094	0.862–5.084
Carcinoma percentage	0.001	0.964	1.001	0.962–1.041
Neutrophil-central region	0.027	0.887	1.027	0.709–1.488
Neutrophil- invasive margin	-0.883	<u>0.005</u>	0.414	0.222–0.770
Lymphocytes-central region	-0.072	0.764	0.931	0.583–1.484
Lymphocytes- invasive margin	0.257	0.335	1.293	0.767–2.178
CEA	0.331	0.152	1.392	0.885–2.191
CRP	0.265	0.209	1.303	0.862–1.971
NLR	0.235	0.259	1.264	0.842–1.900
Negative LN		<u>0.007</u>		
0–3	0.853	0.002	2.348	1.369–4.025
4–6	0.471	0.138	1.601	0.860–2.981

7–12	0.194	0.486	1.214	0.704–2.094
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MMR, mismatch repair, CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; CRP, C reactive protein; NLR, neutrophil to

lymphocyte ratio; LN, lymph node

Supplementary Table 4: Correlations between the number of negative pericolic nodes and patients'

characteristics

Variable	Total	No. of negative pericolic nodes				p*
		0–3	4–6	7–12	≥13	
Number of patients	1157	472 (40.8%)	346 (29.9%)	253 (21.9%)	86 (7.4%)	
Age						
≤50 y	313	122 (39.0%)	85 (27.2%)	82 (26.2%)	24 (7.7%)	0.351
51–65 y	518	210 (40.5%)	157 (30.3%)	111 (21.4%)	40 (7.7%)	
>65 y	326	140 (42.9%)	104 (31.9%)	60 (18.4%)	22 (6.8%)	
Sex						
Male	713	286 (40.1%)	222 (31.1%)	152 (21.3%)	53 (7.4%)	0.703
Female	444	186 (41.9%)	124 (27.9%)	101 (22.7%)	33 (7.4%)	
Primary tumor						
Right-side colon	435	138 (31.7%)	126 (29.0%)	125 (28.7%)	46 (10.6%)	<u><0.001</u>
Left-side colon	703	327 (46.5%)	215 (30.6%)	122 (17.4%)	39 (5.5%)	
Multiple	19	7 (36.8%)	5 (26.3%)	6 (31.6%)	1 (5.3%)	
T stage						
1	30	19 (63.3%)	10 (33.3%)	1 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	<u><0.001</u>
2	108	52 (48.1%)	24 (22.2%)	24 (22.2%)	8 (7.4%)	
3	788	284 (36.0%)	255 (32.4%)	185 (23.5%)	64 (8.1%)	
4	231	117 (50.6%)	57 (24.7%)	43 (18.6%)	14 (6.1%)	
N stage						
0	698	239 (34.2%)	214 (30.7%)	176 (25.2%)	69 (9.9%)	<u><0.001</u>
1	296	129 (43.6%)	97 (32.8%)	56 (18.9%)	14 (4.7%)	
2	163	104 (63.8%)	35 (21.5%)	21 (12.9%)	3 (1.8%)	
Stage						
I	106	52 (49.1%)	27 (25.5%)	21 (19.8%)	6 (5.7%)	<u><0.001</u>
II	505	143 (28.3%)	163 (32.3%)	140 (27.7%)	59 (11.7%)	
III	263	115 (43.7%)	84 (31.9%)	51 (19.4%)	13 (4.9%)	
IV	283	162 (57.2%)	72 (25.4%)	41 (14.5%)	8 (2.8%)	
Differentiation						
well/moderate	875	336 (38.4%)	273 (31.2%)	197 (22.5%)	69 (7.9%)	0.129
poor	282	136 (48.2%)	73 (25.9%)	56 (19.9%)	17 (6.0%)	
Mucinous histology						0.666

Yes	65	29 (44.6%)	15 (23.1%)	16 (24.6%)	5 (7.7%)	
No	1088	440 (40.4%)	330 (30.3%)	237 (21.8%)	81 (7.4%)	
Neural invasion						
absent	916	348 (38.0%)	278 (30.3%)	211 (23.0%)	79 (8.6%)	<u><0.001</u>
present	241	124 (51.5%)	68 (28.2%)	42 (17.4%)	7 (2.9%)	
Venous invasion						
absent	830	303 (36.5%)	250 (30.1%)	206 (24.8%)	71 (8.6%)	<u><0.001</u>
present	327	169 (51.7%)	96 (29.4%)	47 (14.4%)	15 (4.6%)	
CEA [☆]						
≤5 ng/ml	594	229 (38.6%)	172 (29.0%)	148 (24.9%)	45 (7.6%)	0.867
>5 ng/ml	562	243 (43.2%)	174 (31.0%)	105 (18.7%)	40 (7.1%)	
Tumor size						
≤2 cm	96	58 (60.4%)	28 (29.2%)	8 (8.3%)	2 (2.1%)	<u><0.001</u>
2–5 cm	773	330 (42.7%)	237 (30.7%)	160 (20.7%)	46 (6.0%)	
>5 cm	284	80 (28.2%)	81 (28.5%)	85 (29.9%)	38 (13.4%)	
MMR status						
dMMR	112	40 (35.7%)	26 (23.2%)	<u>37 (33.0%)</u>	<u>9 (8.0%)</u>	<u>0.021</u>
pMMR	1045	432 (41.3%)	320 (30.6%)	<u>216 (20.7%)</u>	<u>77 (7.4%)</u>	

☆ 1 patient had missing CEA values.

* Chi-square test was used to compare patient characteristics, and a p value < 0.05 was considered significant.

MMR, mismatch repair, CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen

Supplementary Table 5: Correlation among pericolic nodes, the local tumor microenvironment, and the systemic inflammatory response

Tumor microenvironment	Total	No. of negative pericolic nodes				p*
		0–3	4–6	7–12	≥23	
Local tumor microenvironment						
Carcinoma percentage						
Low	359	162 (45.1%)	107 (29.8%)	61 (17.0%)	29 (8.1%)	<u>0.038</u>
High	797	310 (38.9%)	239 (30.0%)	192 (24.1%)	56 (7.0%)	
Neutrophil-central region						
Low grade	483	231 (47.8%)	136 (28.2%)	90 (18.6%)	26 (5.4%)	<u>0.001</u>
High grade	674	241 (35.8%)	210 (31.2%)	163 (24.2%)	60 (8.9%)	
Neutrophil- invasive margin						
Low grade	786	366 (46.6%)	229 (29.1%)	150 (19.1%)	41 (5.2%)	<u>0.001</u>
High grade	370	105 (28.4%)	117 (31.6%)	103 (27.8%)	45 (12.2%)	
Lymphocytes-central region						
Low grade	538	239 (44.4%)	168 (31.2%)	98 (18.2%)	33 (6.1%)	<u>0.007</u>
High grade	619	233 (37.6%)	178 (28.8%)	155 (25.0%)	53 (8.6%)	
Lymphocytes- invasive margin						
Low grade	645	303 (47.0%)	190 (29.5%)	121 (18.8%)	31 (4.8%)	<u>0.001</u>
High grade	512	169 (33.0%)	156 (30.5%)	132 (25.8%)	55 (10.7%)	
Crohn's-like reaction						
Yes	95	17 (17.9%)	23 (24.2%)	38 (40.0%)	17 (17.9%)	<u>0.001</u>
No	1059	453 (42.8%)	322 (30.4%)	215 (20.3%)	69 (6.5%)	
Systemic inflammatory response						
NLR						
≤3	782	321 (41.0%)	252 (32.2%)	163 (20.8%)	46 (5.9%)	<u>0.004</u>
>3	375	151 (40.3%)	94 (25.1%)	90 (24.0%)	40 (10.7%)	
PLT						
normal	835	349 (41.8%)	259 (31.0%)	165 (19.8%)	62 (7.4%)	<u>0.045</u>
elevated	322	123 (38.2%)	87 (27.0%)	88 (27.3%)	24 (7.5%)	
CRP						
normal	784	321 (40.9%)	248 (31.6%)	166 (21.2%)	49 (6.3%)	0.056
elevated	373	151 (40.5%)	98 (26.3%)	87 (23.3%)	37 (9.9%)	

* Chi-square test was used to compare patient characteristics, and a p value < 0.05 was considered significant.

CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; CRP, C reactive protein; NLR, neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio; PLT, platelets

Supplementary Table 6: Correlations between the number of negative intermediate nodes and patients' characteristics

Variable	Total	No. of negative intermediate nodes				p*
		0-3	4-6	7-12	≥13	
Number of patients	1157	580 (50.1%)	342(29.6%)	195(16.9%)	40(3.5%)	
Age						
≤50 y	313	142(45.4%)	91(29.1%)	62(19.8%)	18(5.8%)	<u>0.009</u>
51-65 y	518	266(51.4%)	150(29.0%)	82(15.8%)	20(3.9%)	
>65 y	326	172(52.8%)	101(31.0%)	51(15.6%)	2(0.6%)	
Sex						
Male	713	360(50.5%)	210(29.5%)	117(16.4%)	26(3.6%)	0.926
Female	444	220(49.5%)	132(29.7%)	78(17.6%)	14(3.2%)	
Primary tumor						
Right-side colon	435	151(34.7%)	<u>139(32.0%)</u>	<u>115(26.4%)</u>	<u>30(6.9%)</u>	<u><0.001</u>
Left-side colon	703	420(59.7%)	<u>198(28.2%)</u>	<u>77(11.0%)</u>	<u>8(1.1%)</u>	
Multiple	19	9(47.4%)	<u>5(26.3%)</u>	<u>3(15.8%)</u>	<u>2(10.5%)</u>	
T stage						
1	30	19 (63.3%)	9 (30%)	1 (3.3%)	1 (3.3%)	<u>0.030</u>
2	108	59 (54.6%)	27 (25.0%)	19 (17.6%)	3 (2.8%)	
3	788	366 (46.4%)	246 (31.2%)	148 (18.8%)	28 (3.6%)	
4	231	136 (58.9%)	60 (26.0%)	27 (11.7%)	8 (3.5%)	
N stage						
0	698	317 (45.4%)	218 (31.2%)	136 (19.5%)	27 (3.9%)	<u><0.001</u>
1	296	154 (52.0%)	95 (32.1%)	42 (14.2%)	5 (1.7%)	
2	163	109 (66.9%)	29 (17.8%)	17 (10.4%)	8 (4.9%)	
Stage						
I	106	59(55.7%)	28(26.4%)	16(15.1%)	3(2.8%)	<u><0.001</u>
II	505	200(39.6%)	171(33.9%)	113(13.7%)	21(4.2%)	
III	263	125(47.5%)	90(34.2%)	36(13.7%)	12(4.6%)	
IV	283	196(69.3%)	53(18.7%)	30(10.6%)	4(1.4%)	
Differentiation						
well/moderate	875	427 (48.8%)	268 (30.6%)	153(17.5%)	27(3.1%)	0.094
poor	282	153 (54.3%)	74 (26.2%)	42(14.9%)	13(4.6%)	
Mucinous histology						
						0.795

Yes	65	34(52.3%)	16(24.6%)	12(18.5%)	3(4.6%)	
No	1088	542(49.8%)	326(30%)	183(16.8%)	37(3.4%)	
Neural invasion						
absent	916	436 (47.6%)	283 (30.9%)	164 (17.9%)	33 (3.6%)	<u>0.010</u>
present	241	144 (59.8%)	59 (24.5%)	31 (12.9%)	7 (2.9%)	
Venous invasion						
absent	830	386 (46.5%)	262 (31.6%)	155 (18.7%)	27 (3.3%)	<u><0.001</u>
present	327	194 (59.3%)	80 (24.5%)	40 (12.2%)	13 (4.0%)	
CEA*						
≤5 ng/ml	594	284(47.8%)	177(29.8%)	106(17.8%)	27(4.5%)	0.095
>5 ng/ml	562	296(52.7%)	165(29.4%)	88(15.7%)	13(2.3%)	
Tumor size						
≤2 cm	96	74(77.1%)	14(14.6%)	7(7.3%)	1(1.0%)	<u><0.001</u>
2–5 cm	773	399(51.6%)	228(29.5%)	121(15.7%)	25(3.2%)	
>5 cm	284	104(36.6%)	99(34.9%)	67(23.6%)	14(4.9%)	
MMR status						
dMMR	112	39(34.8%)	30(26.8%)	35(31.3%)	8(7.1%)	<u><0.001</u>
pMMR	1045	541(51.8%)	312(29.9%)	160(15.3%)	32(3.1%)	

☆ 1 patient had missing CEA values.

* Chi-square test was used to compare patient characteristics, and a p value < 0.05 was considered significant.

MMR, mismatch repair, CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen

Supplementary Table 7: Correlation among intermediate nodes, the local tumor microenvironment, and the systemic inflammatory response

Tumor microenvironment	Total	No. of negative intermediate node				p*
		0-3	4-6	7-12	≥13	
Local tumor microenvironment						
Carcinoma percentage						
Low	359	194(54.0%)	95(26.5%)	51(14.2%)	19(5.3%)	<u>0.015</u>
High	797	386(48.4%)	246(30.9%)	144(18.1%)	21(2.6%)	
Neutrophil-central region						
Low grade	483	277(57.3%)	125(25.9%)	66(13.7%)	15(3.1%)	<u>0.001</u>
High grade	674	303(45.0%)	217(32.2%)	129(19.1%)	25(3.7%)	
Neutrophil- invasive margin						
Low grade	786	439(55.9%)	208(26.5%)	113(14.4%)	26(3.3%)	<u><0.001</u>
High grade	370	140(37.8%)	134(36.2%)	82(22.2%)	14(3.8%)	
Lymphocytes-central region						
Low grade	538	302(56.1%)	142(26.4%)	83(15.4%)	11(2.1%)	<u>0.001</u>
High grade	619	278(44.9%)	200(32.3%)	112(18.1%)	29(4.7%)	
Lymphocytes- invasive margin						
Low grade	645	354(54.9%)	184(28.5%)	87(13.5%)	20(3.1%)	<u>0.001</u>
High grade	512	226(44.1%)	158(30.9%)	108(21.1%)	20(3.9%)	
Crohn's-like reaction						
Yes	95	28(29.5%)	31(32.6%)	31(32.6%)	5(5.3%)	<u><0.001</u>
No	1059	549(51.8%)	311(29.4%)	164(15.5%)	35(3.3%)	
Systemic inflammatory response						
NLR						
≤3	782	401(51.3%)	234(29.9%)	119(15.2%)	28(3.6%)	0.196
>3	375	179(47.7%)	108(28.8%)	76(20.3%)	12(3.2%)	
PLT						
normal	835	446(53.4%)	238(28.5%)	123(14.7%)	28(3.4%)	<u>0.001</u>
elevated	322	134(41.6%)	104(32.3%)	72(22.4%)	12(3.7%)	
CRP						
normal	784	411(52.4%)	228(29.1%)	118(15.1%)	27(3.4%)	0.059
elevated	373	169(45.3%)	114(30.6%)	77(20.6%)	13(3.5%)	

* Chi-square test was used to compare patient characteristics, and a p value < 0.05 was considered significant.

NLR, neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio; CRP, C reactive protein; PLT, platelets

Supplementary Table 8: Correlations between the number of negative nodes at the origin of the inferior mesenteric artery and patients' characteristics

Variable	Total	No. of negative nodes at the origin of the inferior mesenteric artery				p*
		0–3	4–6	7–12	≥13	
Number of patients	1157	639(55.2%)	313(27.1%)	165(14.3%)	40(3.4%)	
Age						
≤50 y	313	157(50.2%)	75(24.0%)	66(21.1%)	15(4.8%)	<u>0.002</u>
51–65 y	518	296(57.1%)	143(27.6%)	62(12.0%)	17(3.3%)	
>65 y	326	186(57.1%)	95(29.1%)	37(11.3%)	8(2.5%)	
Sex						
Male	713	396(55.5%)	193(27.1%)	99(13.9%)	25(3.5%)	0.973
Female	444	243(54.7%)	120(27.0%)	66(14.9%)	15(3.4%)	
Primary tumor						
Right-side colon	435	177(40.7%)	117(26.9%)	107(24.6%)	34(7.8%)	<u><0.001</u>
Left-side colon	703	451(64.2%)	194(27.6%)	54(7.7%)	4(0.5%)	
Multiple	19	11(37.9%)	2(10.5%)	4(21.1%)	2(10.5%)	
T stage						
1	30	24 (80.0%)	4 (13.3%)	2 (6.7%)	0 (0%)	<u>0.023</u>
2	108	65 (60.2%)	30 (27.8%)	10 (9.3%)	3 (2.8%)	
3	788	408 (51.8%)	221 (28.0%)	128 (16.2%)	31 (3.9%)	
4	231	142 (61.5%)	58 (25.1%)	25 (10.8%)	6 (2.6%)	
N stage						
0	698	363 (52.0%)	203 (29.1%)	105 (15.0%)	27 (3.9%)	0.085
1	296	170 (57.4%)	79 (26.7%)	38 (12.8%)	9 (3.0%)	
2	163	106 (65.0%)	31 (19.0%)	22 (13.5%)	4 (2.5%)	
Stage						
I	106	71(67.0%)	24(22.6%)	8(7.5%)	3(2.8%)	<u><0.001</u>
II	505	231(45.7%)	160(31.7%)	89(17.6%)	25(5.0%)	
III	263	138(52.5%)	75(28.5%)	40(15.2%)	10(3.8%)	
IV	283	199(70.3%)	54(19.1%)	28(9.9%)	2(0.7%)	
Differentiation						
well/moderate	875	478 (54.6%)	241 (27.5%)	128(14.6%)	28(3.2%)	0.781
poor	282	161 (57.1%)	72 (25.5%)	37(13.1%)	12(4.3%)	
Mucinous histology						<u>0.032</u>

Yes	65	36(55.4%)	12(18.5%)	11(16.9%)	6(9.2%)	
No	1088	599(55.1%)	301(27.7%)	154(14.2%)	34(3.1%)	
Neural invasion						0.077
absent	916	489 (53.4%)	261 (28.2%)	135 (14.6%)	31 (3.4%)	
present	241	150 (62.2%)	52 (21.6%)	30 (12.4%)	9 (3.7%)	
Venous invasion						<u>0.025</u>
absent	830	438 (52.8%)	244 (29.4%)	120 (14.5%)	28 (3.4%)	
present	327	201 (61.5%)	69 (21.1%)	45 (13.8%)	12 (3.7%)	
CEA*						0.065
≤5 ng/ml	594	318(53.5%)	154(25.9%)	96(16.2%)	26(4.4%)	
>5 ng/ml	562	320(56.9%)	159(28.3%)	69(12.3%)	14(2.5%)	
Tumor size						
≤2 cm	96	76(79.2%)	14(14.6%)	4(4.2%)	2(2.1%)	<u><0.001</u>
2–5 cm	773	442(57.2%)	214(27.7%)	97(12.5%)	20(2.6%)	
>5 cm	284	118(41.5%)	84(29.6%)	64(22.5%)	18(6.3%)	
MMR status						<u><0.001</u>
dMMR	112	40(35.7%)	37(33.0%)	23(20.5%)	12(10.7%)	
pMMR	1045	599(57.3%)	276(26.4%)	142(13.6%)	28(2.7%)	

☆ 1 patient had missing CEA values.

* Chi-square test was used to compare patient characteristics, and a p value < 0.05 was considered significant.

CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; MMR, mismatch repair

Supplementary Table 9: Correlation among lymph nodes at the origin of the inferior mesenteric artery, the local tumor microenvironment, and the systemic inflammatory response

Tumor microenvironment	Total	No. of negative nodes at the origin of the inferior mesenteric artery				p*
		0-3	4-6	7-12	≥13	
Local tumor microenvironment						
Carcinoma percentage						
Low	359	208(57.9%)	87(24.2%)	46(12.8%)	18(5.1%)	0.088
High	797	431(54.1%)	225(28.2%)	119(14.9%)	22(2.8%)	
Neutrophil-central region						
Low grade	483	301(62.3%)	116(24.0%)	55(11.4%)	11(2.3%)	<u><0.001</u>
High grade	674	338(50.1%)	197(29.2%)	110(16.3%)	29(4.3%)	
Neutrophil- invasive margin						
Low grade	786	477(60.7%)	187(23.8%)	99(12.6%)	23(2.9%)	<u><0.001</u>
High grade	370	161(43.5%)	126(34.1%)	66(17.8%)	17(4.6%)	
Lymphocytes-central region						
Low grade	538	310(57.6%)	132(24.5%)	72(13.4%)	24(4.5%)	0.076
High grade	619	329(53.2%)	181(29.2%)	93(15.0%)	16(2.6%)	
Lymphocytes- invasive margin						
Low grade	645	387(60.0%)	156(24.2%)	82(12.7%)	20(3.1%)	<u>0.004</u>
High grade	512	252(49.2%)	157(30.7%)	83(16.2%)	20(3.9%)	
Crohn's-like reaction						
Yes	95	36(37.9%)	33(34.7%)	22(23.2%)	4(4.2%)	<u>0.003</u>
No	1059	600(56.7%)	280(26.4%)	143(13.5%)	36(3.4%)	
Systemic inflammatory response						
NLR						
≤3	782	447(57.2%)	207(26.5%)	109(13.9%)	19(2.4%)	<u>0.024</u>
>3	375	192(51.2%)	106(28.3%)	56(14.9%)	21(5.5%)	
PLT						
normal	835	480(57.5%)	233(27.9%)	99(11.9%)	23(2.8%)	<u><0.001</u>
elevated	322	159(49.4%)	80(24.8%)	66(20.5%)	17(5.3%)	
CRP						
normal	784	448(57.1%)	213(27.2%)	101(12.9%)	22(2.8%)	<u>0.049</u>
elevated	373	191(51.2%)	100(26.8%)	64(17.2%)	18(4.8%)	

* Chi-square test was used to compare patient characteristics, and a pvalue < 0.05 was considered significant.

NLR, neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio; PLT, platelets; CRP, C reactive protein

Supplementary figure: Disease free survival of patients with stage I+II colon cancer grouped by negative pericolic nodes (A), intermediate nodes (B) and nodes at the origin of the inferior mesenteric artery (C). Disease free survival of patients with stage III colon cancer grouped by negative pericolic nodes (D), intermediate nodes (E) and nodes at the origin of the inferior mesenteric artery (F). Overall survival of patients with stage IV colon cancer grouped by negative pericolic nodes (G), intermediate nodes (H) and nodes at the origin of the inferior mesenteric artery (I).

