

Supplementary Materials

Supplementary materials includes ten supplementary figures, and four supplementary tables.

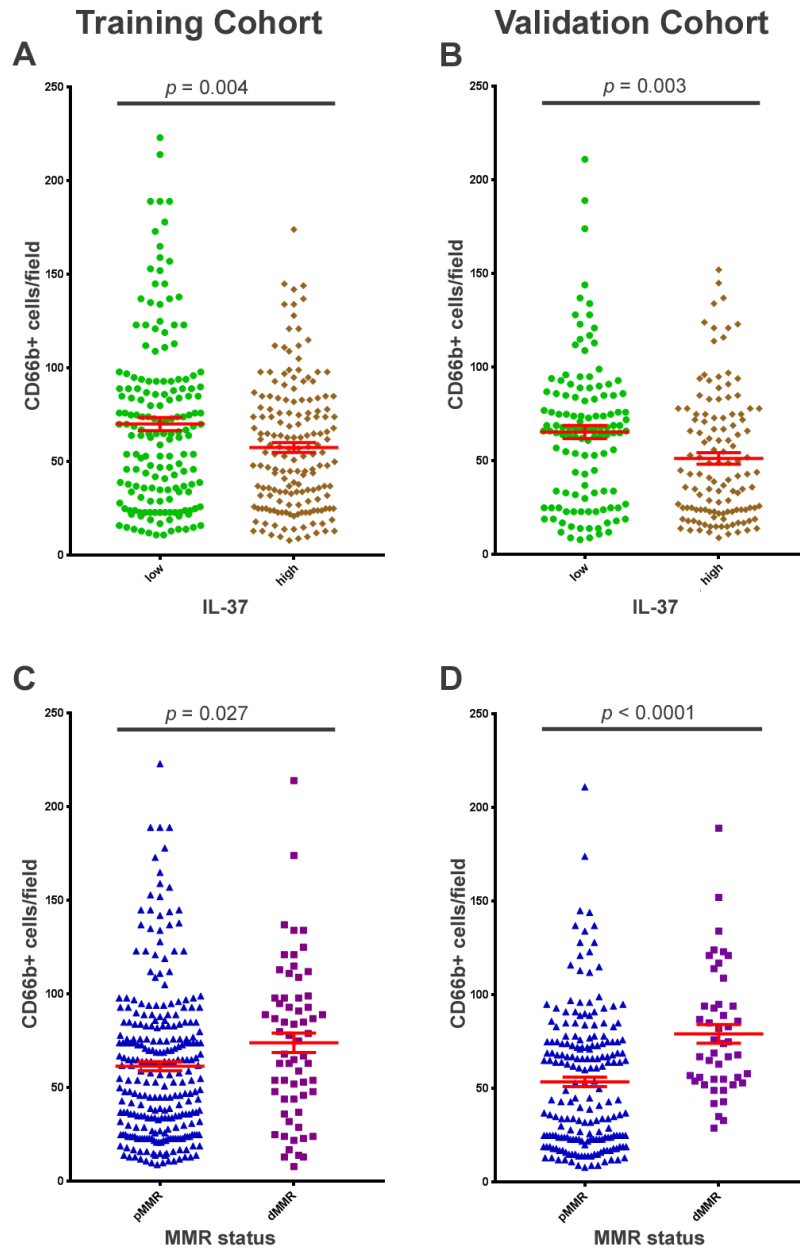


Figure S1: Scatter plots for CD66b+ neutrophils per field according to IL-37 expression and MMR status in the training and validation cohorts. (A, B): IL-37 expression, (C, D): MMR status. The left panel shows the results from the training cohort, and the right panel shows the results from the validation cohort.

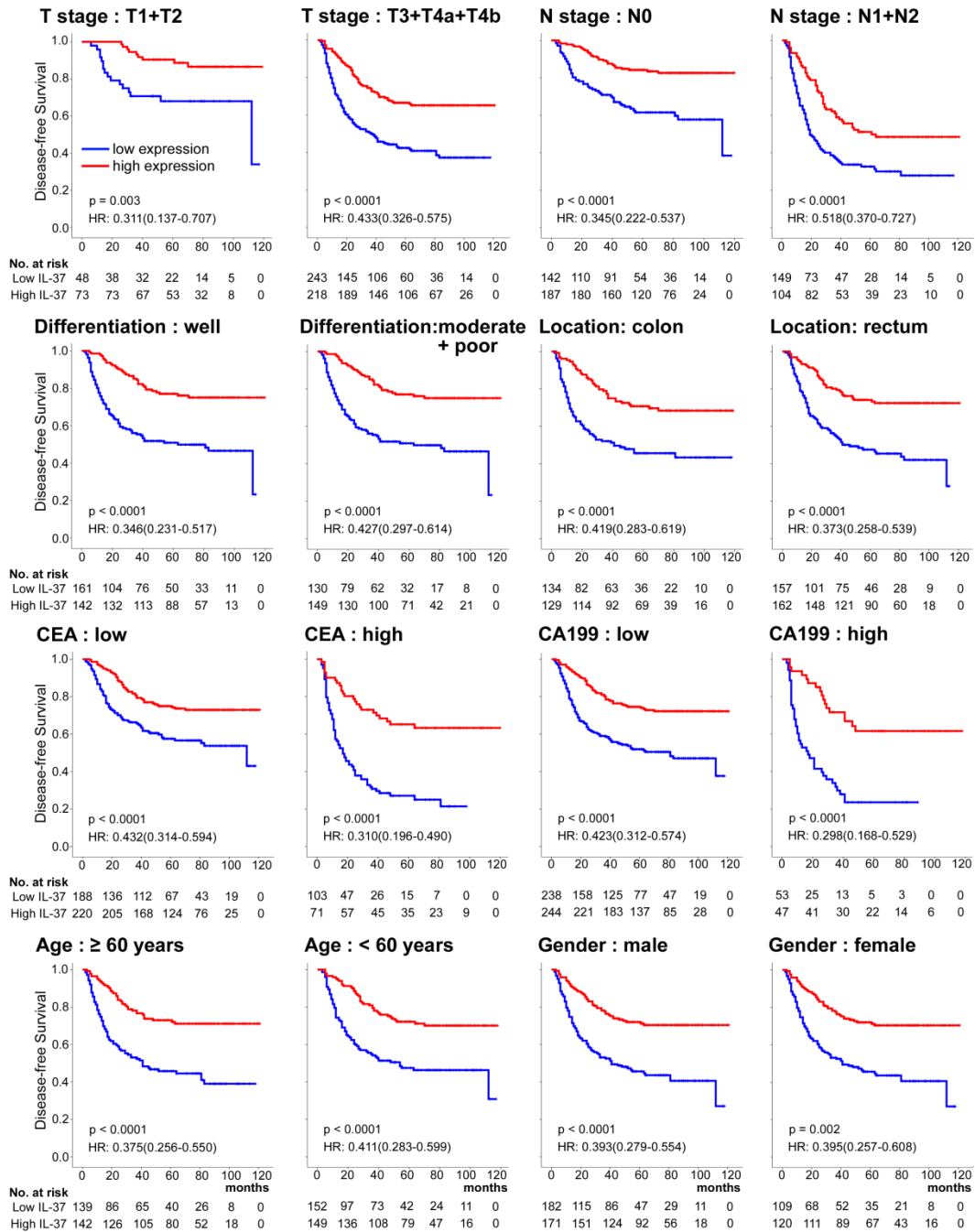


Figure S2: Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of OS for all 582 patients with colorectal cancer according to the IL-37 expression stratified by clinicopathological risk factors.

P-values were calculated by log-rank test.

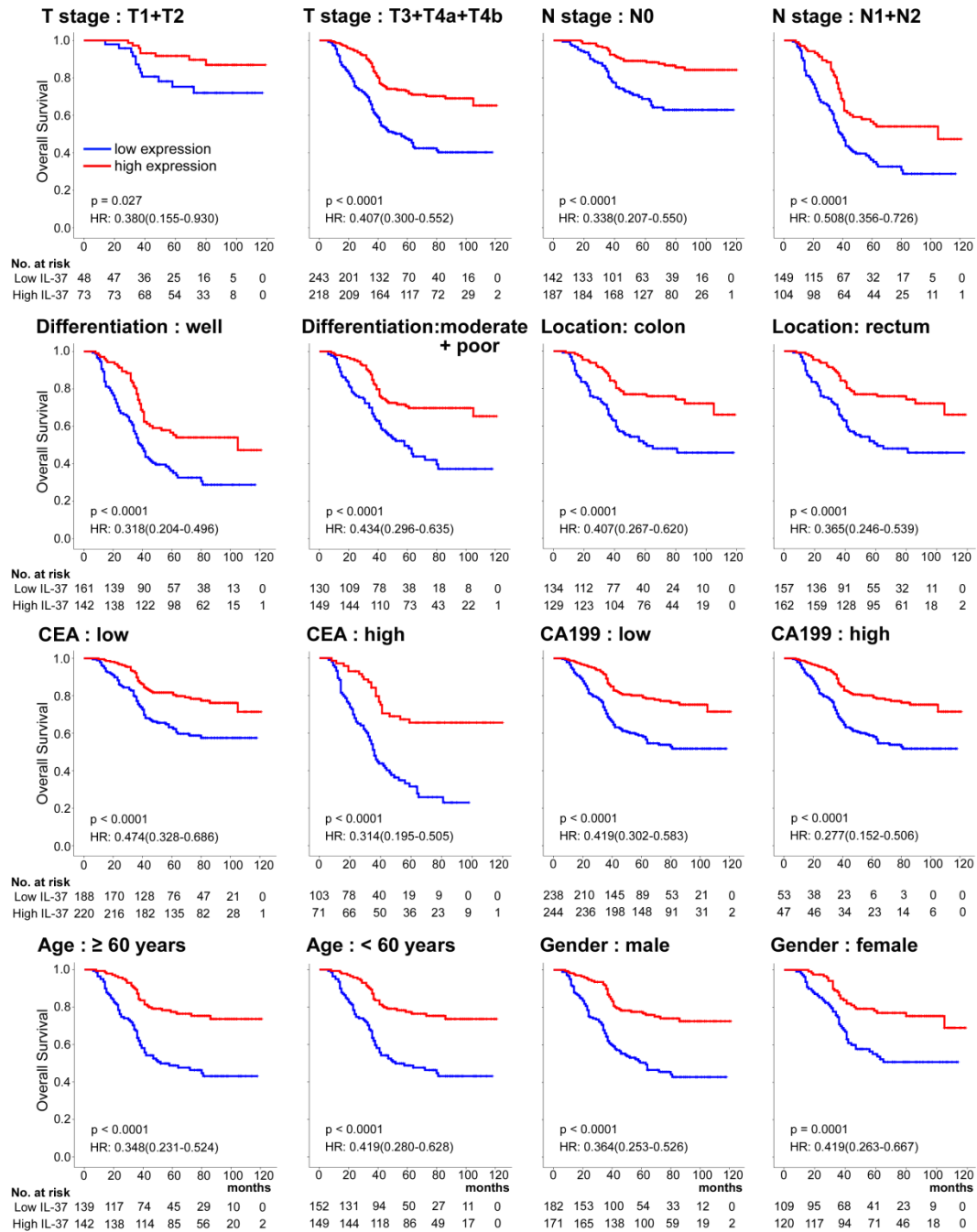


Figure S3: Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of disease-free survival (DFS) and overall survival (OS) according to CD66b expression (A) and MMR status (B) of CRC patients in the training cohort and validation cohort. The left panel shows the results from the training cohort, and the right panel shows the results from the validation cohort.

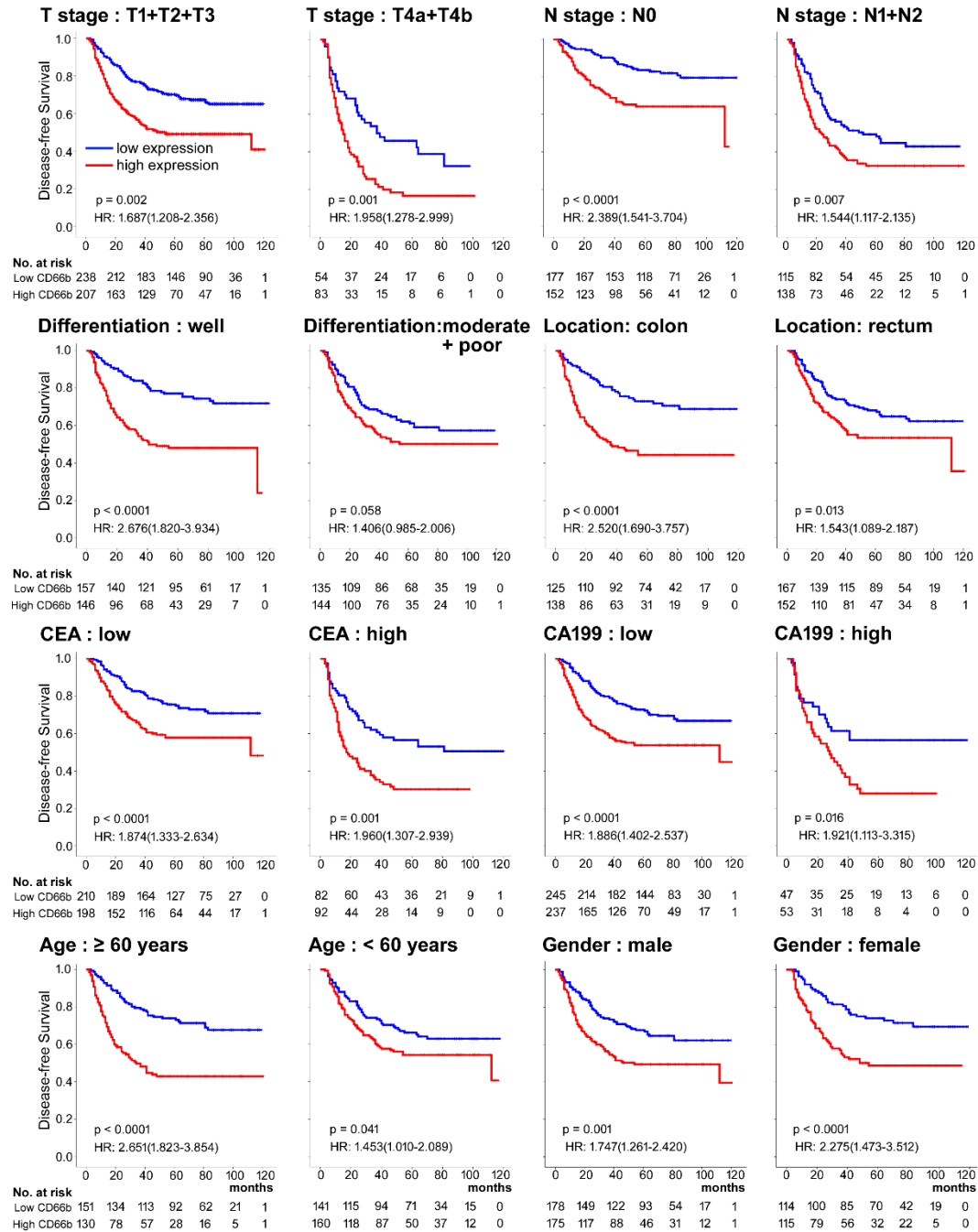


Figure S4: Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of DFS for all 582 patients with CRC according to CD66b expression stratified by clinicopathological risk factors. P-values were calculated by the log-rank test.

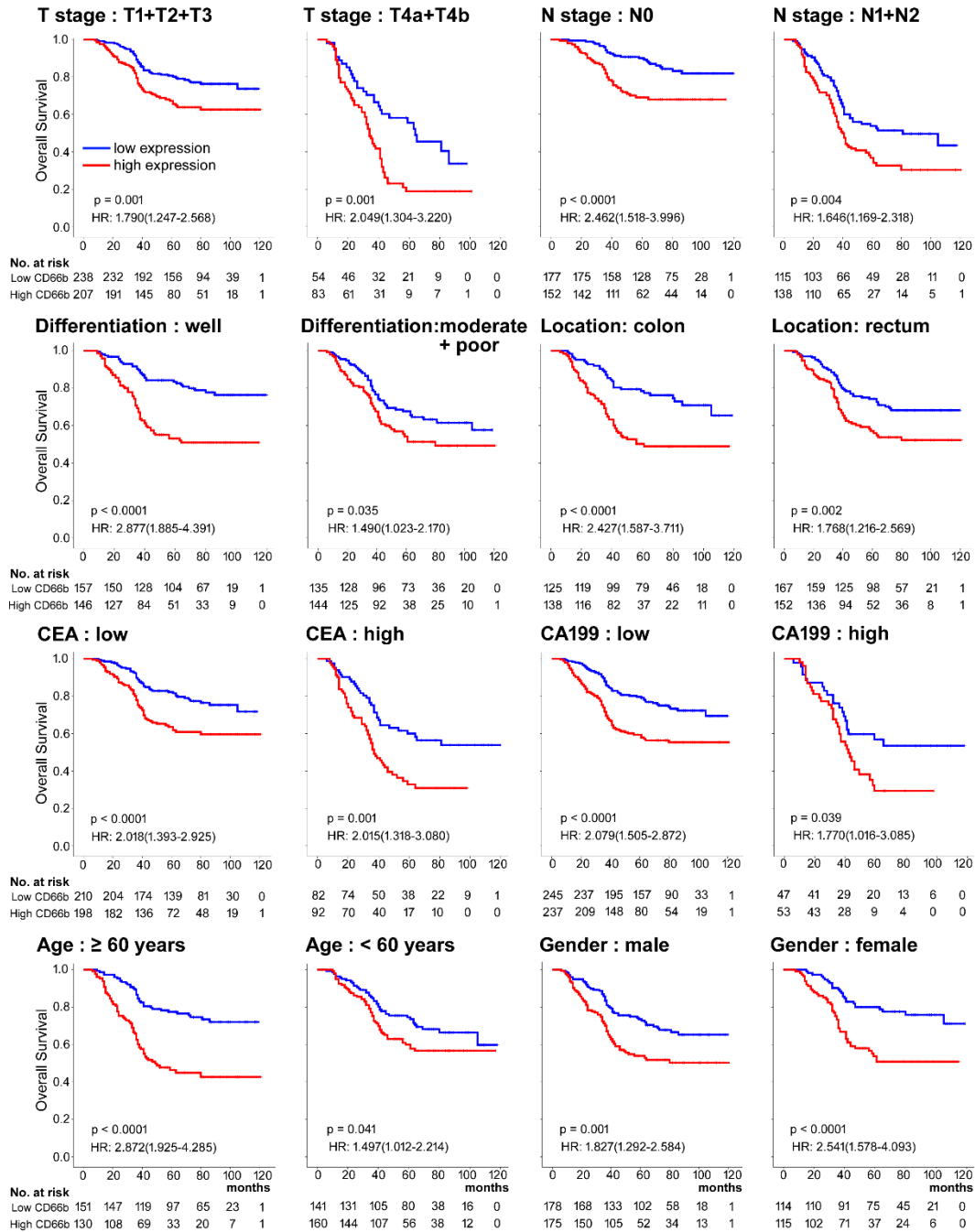


Figure S5: Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of OS for all 582 patients with CRC according to CD66b expression stratified by clinicopathological risk factors. P-values were calculated by the log-rank test.

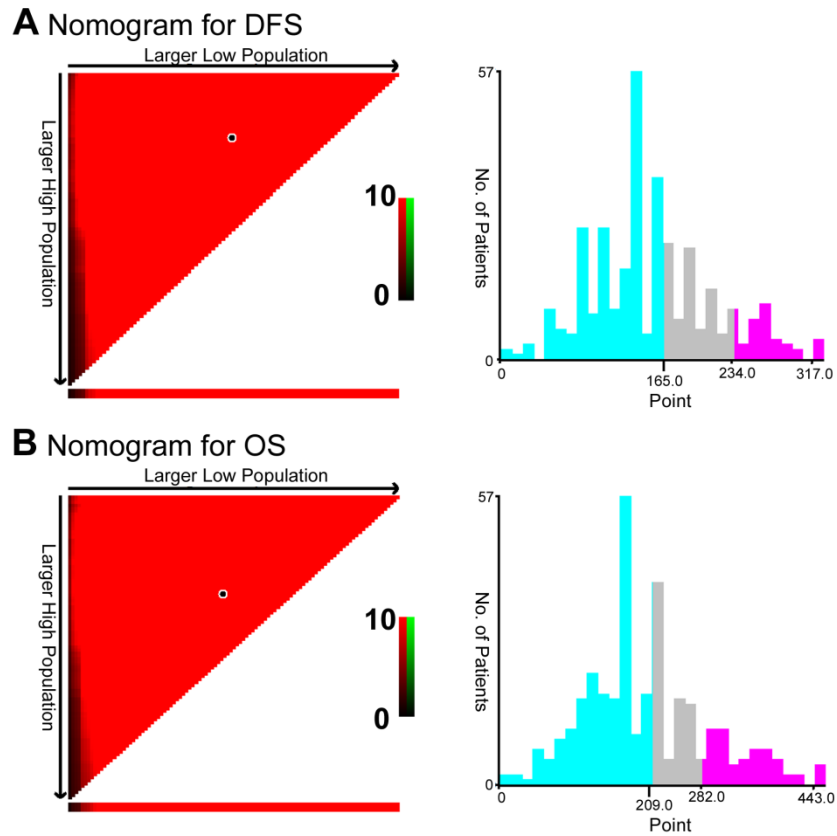


Figure S6: X-tile plots of the two nomograms and the points of the nomograms.

Coloration of the plot represents the strength of the association at each division ranging from low (dark, black) to high (bright, red, or green). Red represents the inverse association between the expression levels and survival of the feature, whereas green represents a direct association. (A): DFS nomogram, (B): OS nomogram.

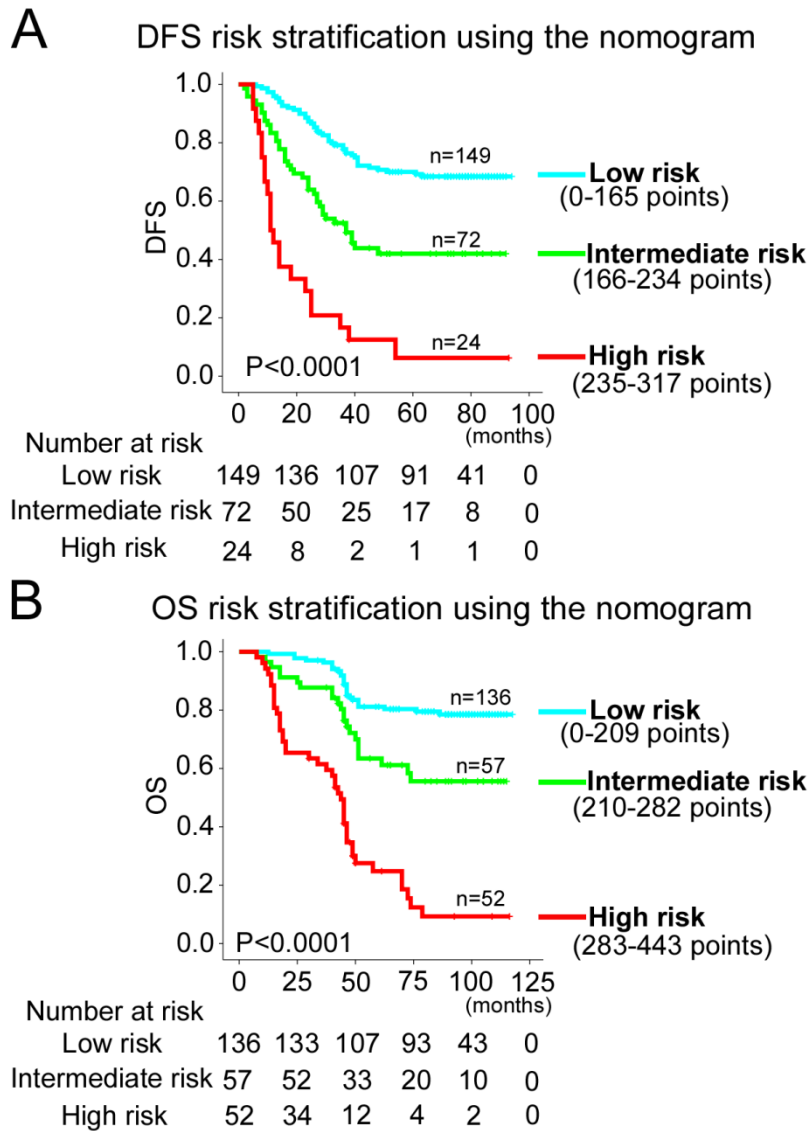


Figure S7: Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of DFS and OS according to the three risk groups in the validation cohort. The entire population was divided into 3 subgroups according to the total number of points given by the nomograms. (A): DFS nomogram, and (B): OS nomogram.

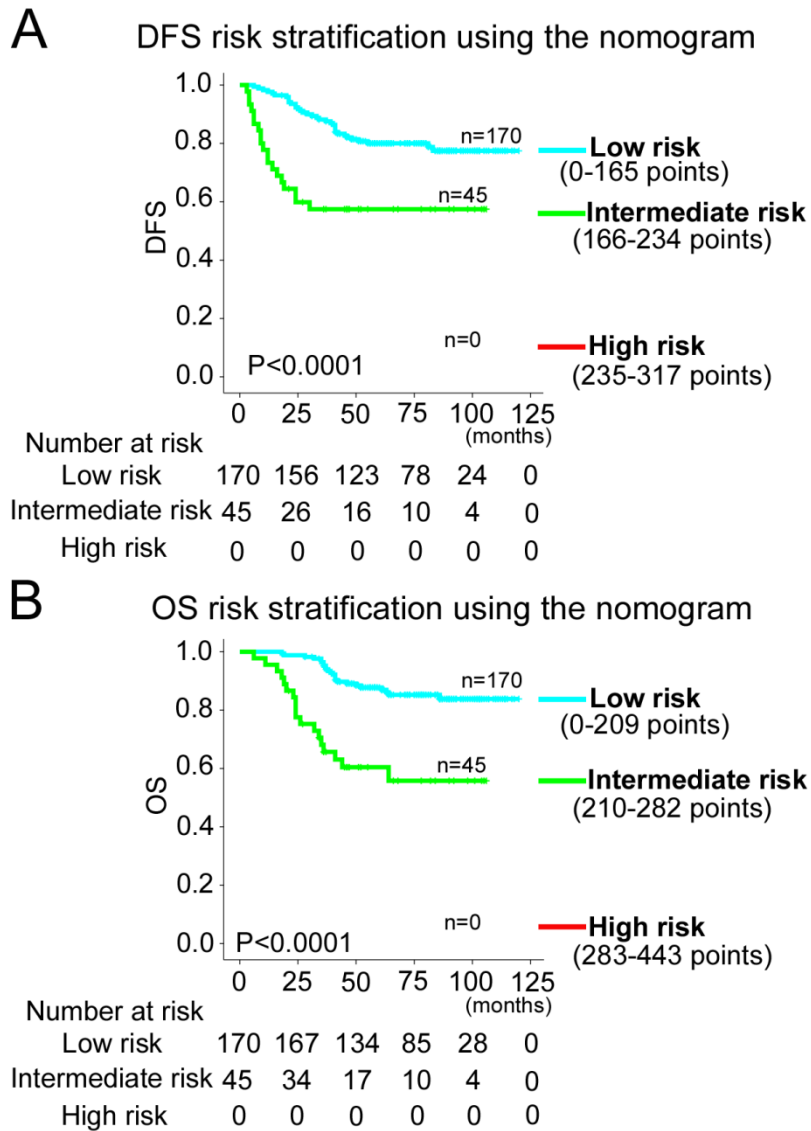


Figure S8: Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of DFS and OS according to the three risk groups in stage II CRC patients. The entire population was divided into 3 subgroups according to the total number of points given by the nomograms. (A): DFS nomogram, and (B): OS nomogram.

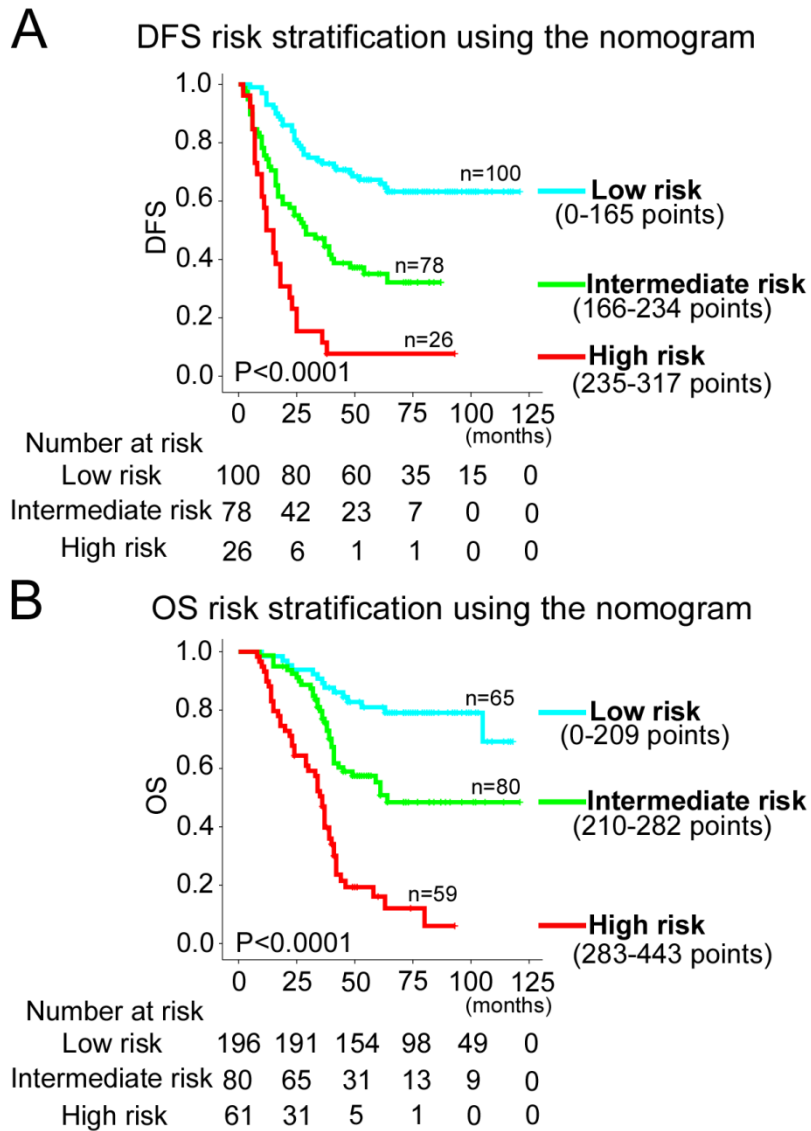


Figure S9: Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of DFS and OS according to the three risk groups in stage III CRC patients. The entire population was divided into 3 subgroups according to the total number of points given by the nomograms. (A): DFS nomogram, and (B): OS nomogram.

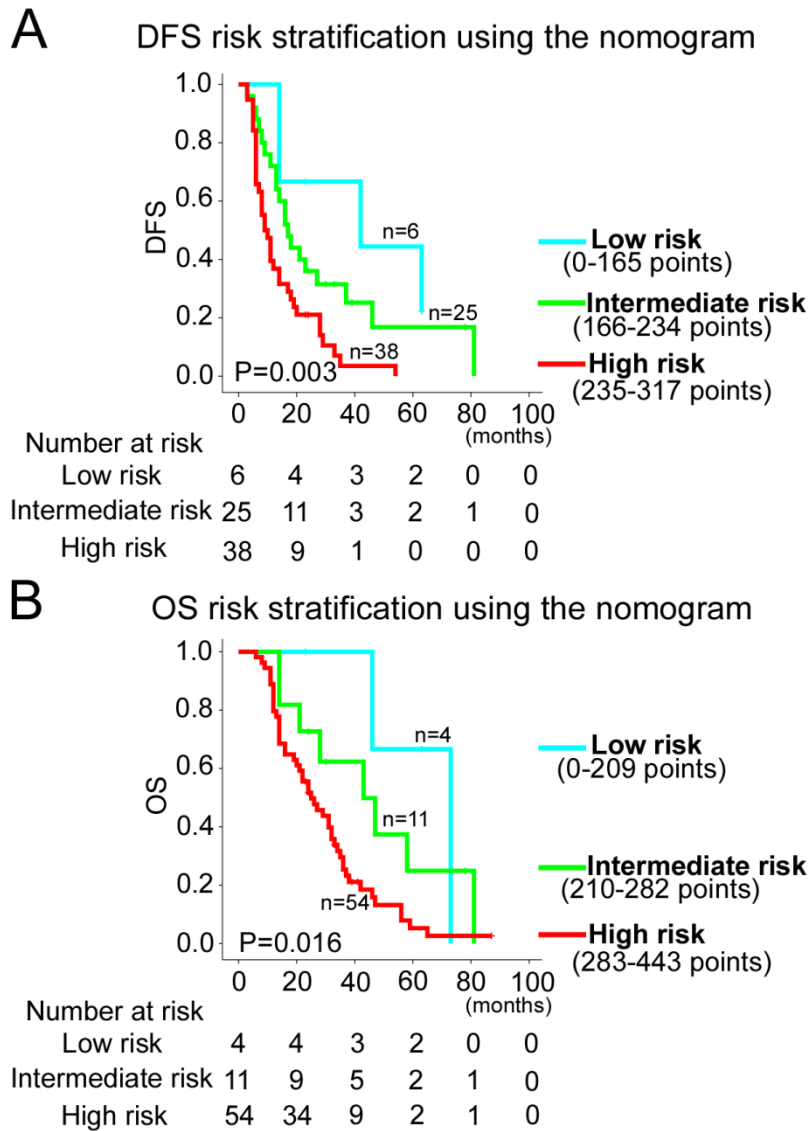


Figure S10: Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of DFS and OS according to the three risk groups in stage IV CRC patients. The entire population was divided into 3 subgroups according to the total number of points given by the nomograms. (A): DFS nomogram, and (B): OS nomogram.

Table S1. Clinical characteristics of patients according to CD66b in the training and validation cohorts.

| Variables | Training cohort (n = 337) | | | | Validation cohort (n =245) | | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------|
| | N | low IL-37 (%) | high IL-37 (%) | p value | N | low IL-37 (%) | high IL-37 (%) | p value |
| Gender | | | | 0.546 | | | | 0.641 |
| Male | 208 | 107(51.4%) | 101(48.6%) | | 145 | 71(49.0%) | 74(51.0%) | |
| Female | 129 | 62(48.1%) | 67(51.9%) | | 100 | 52(52.0%) | 48(48.0%) | |
| Age(years) | | | | 0.172 | | | | 0.337 |
| < 60 | 176 | 82(46.6%) | 94(53.4%) | | 125 | 59(47.2%) | 66(52.8%) | |
| ≥60 | 161 | 87(54.0%) | 74(46.0%) | | 120 | 64(53.3%) | 56(46.7%) | |
| Tumor location | | | | 0.056 | | | | 0.647 |
| Colon | 155 | 69(44.5%) | 86(55.5%) | | 108 | 56(51.9%) | 52(48.1%) | |
| Rectum | 182 | 100(54.9%) | 82(45.1%) | | 137 | 67(48.9%) | 70(51.1%) | |
| Differentiation status | | | | 0.567 | | | | 0.394 |
| Well | 153 | 80(52.3%) | 73(47.7%) | | 150 | 77(51.3%) | 73(48.7%) | |
| Moderate | 140 | 70(50.0%) | 70(50.0%) | | 73 | 38(52.1%) | 35(47.9%) | |
| Poor and undifferentiated | 44 | 19(43.2%) | 25(56.8%) | | 22 | 8(36.4%) | 14(63.6%) | |
| CEA | | | | 0.530 | | | | 0.456 |
| Elevated | 103 | 49(47.6%) | 54(52.4%) | | 71 | 33(46.5%) | 38(53.5%) | |
| Nomal | 234 | 120(51.3%) | 114(48.7%) | | 174 | 90(51.7%) | 84(48.3%) | |
| CA199 | | | | 0.547 | | | | 0.713 |
| Elevated | 58 | 27(50.9%) | 31(49.1%) | | 42 | 20(47.6%) | 22(52.4%) | |
| Nomal | 279 | 142(46.6%) | 137(53.4%) | | 203 | 103(50.7%) | 100(49.3%) | |
| Depth of invasion | | | | 0.003 | | | | 0.53 |
| T1 | 16 | 12(75%) | 4(25%) | | 14 | 5(35.7%) | 9(64.3%) | |
| T2 | 46 | 26(56.5%) | 20(43.5%) | | 45 | 24(53.3%) | 21(46.7%) | |
| T3 | 206 | 107(51.9%) | 99(48.1%) | | 118 | 64(54.2%) | 54(45.8%) | |
| T4a | 15 | 9(60.0%) | 6(40.0%) | | 19 | 8(42.1%) | 11(57.9%) | |
| T4b | 54 | 15(27.8%) | 39(72.2%) | | 49 | 22(44.9%) | 27(55.1%) | |
| Lymph node metastasis | | | | 0.186 | | | | 0.216 |
| N0 | 197 | 106(53.8%) | 91(46.2%) | | 132 | 71(53.8%) | 61(46.2%) | |
| N1 | 99 | 47(59.5%) | 52(40.5%) | | 78 | 39(50.0%) | 39(50.0%) | |
| N2 | 41 | 16(39.0%) | 25(61.0%) | | 35 | 13(37.1%) | 22(62.9%) | |
| Metastasis | | | | 0.384 | | | | 0.233 |
| M0 | 298 | 152(51.0%) | 146(49.0%) | | 215 | 111(51.6%) | 104(48.4%) | |
| M1 | 39 | 17(43.6%) | 22(56.4%) | | 30 | 12(40.0%) | 18(60.0%) | |
| TNM stage | | | | 0.099 | | | | 0.343 |
| I | 52 | 34(65.4%) | 18(34.6%) | | 42 | 23(54.8%) | 19(45.2%) | |
| II | 133 | 66(49.6%) | 67(50.4%) | | 82 | 46(56.1%) | 36(43.9%) | |
| III | 113 | 52(46.0%) | 61(54.0%) | | 91 | 42(46.2%) | 49(53.8%) | |
| IV | 39 | 17(43.6%) | 22(56.4%) | | 30 | 12(40.0%) | 18(60.0%) | |
| CD66b cells/field (mean±SD) | | 32.2±13.9 | 95.8±32.7 | <0.0001 | | 30.2±21.7 | 86.8±25.4 | <0.0001 |
| IL-37 | | | | 0.034 | | | | <0.0001 |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|------------|------------|-------|-----|------------|-----------|
| low | 169 | 75(44.4%) | 94(55.6%) | | 122 | 46(37.7%) | 76(62.3%) |
| high | 168 | 94(56.0%) | 74(44.0%) | | 123 | 77(62.6%) | 46(37.4%) |
| MMR | | | | 0.034 | | | |
| dMMR | 63 | 24(38.1%) | 39(61.9%) | | 46 | 16(34.8%) | 30(65.2%) |
| pMMR | 274 | 145(52.9%) | 129(47.1%) | | 199 | 107(53.8%) | 92(46.2%) |

Table S2. Clinical characteristics of patients according to MMR status in the training and validation cohorts.

| Variables | Training cohort (n = 337) | | | | Validation cohort (n =245) | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| | N | dMMR (%) | pMMR (%) | p value | N | dMMR (%) | pMMR (%) | p value |
| Gender | | | | 0.543 | | | | 0.356 |
| Male | 208 | 41(19.7%) | 167(80.3%) | | 145 | 30(20.7%) | 115(79.3%) | |
| Female | 129 | 22(17.1%) | 107(82.9%) | | 100 | 16(16.0%) | 84(84.0%) | |
| Age(years) | | | | 0.759 | | | | 0.248 |
| < 60 | 176 | 34(19.3%) | 142(80.7%) | | 125 | 27(21.6%) | 98(78.4%) | |
| ≥60 | 161 | 29(18.0%) | 132(82.0%) | | 120 | 19(15.8%) | 101(84.2%) | |
| Tumor location | | | | 0.397 | | | | 0.674 |
| Colon | 155 | 32(20.6%) | 123(79.4%) | | 108 | 19(17.6%) | 89(82.4%) | |
| Rectum | 182 | 31(17.0%) | 151(83.0%) | | 137 | 27(19.7%) | 110(80.3%) | |
| Differentiation status | | | | 0.408 | | | | 0.194 |
| Well | 153 | 33(21.6%) | 120(78.4%) | | 150 | 31(20.7%) | 119(79.3%) | |
| Moderate | 140 | 24(17.1%) | 116(82.9%) | | 73 | 14(19.2%) | 59(80.8%) | |
| Poor and undifferentiated | 44 | 6(13.6%) | 38(86.4%) | | 22 | 1(4.5%) | 21(95.5%) | |
| CEA | | | | 0.197 | | | | 0.118 |
| Elevated | 103 | 15(14.6%) | 88(85.4%) | | 71 | 9(12.7%) | 62(87.3%) | |
| Nomal | 234 | 48 (20.5%) | 186(79.5%) | | 174 | 37(21.3%) | 137(78.7%) | |
| CA199 | | | | 0.755 | | | | 0.092 |
| Elevated | 58 | 10(17.2%) | 48(82.8%) | | 42 | 4(9.5%) | 38(90.5%) | |
| Nomal | 279 | 53(19.0%) | 226(81.0%) | | 203 | 42(20.7%) | 161(79.3%) | |
| Depth of invasion | | | | 0.003 | | | | 0.011 |
| T1 | 16 | 5(31.2%) | 11(68.8%) | | 14 | 7(50.0%) | 7(50.0%) | |
| T2 | 46 | 12(26.1%) | 34(73.9%) | | 45 | 10(22.2%) | 35(77.8%) | |
| T3 | 206 | 39(18.9%) | 167(81.1%) | | 118 | 21(17.8%) | 97(82.2%) | |
| T4a | 15 | 2(13.3%) | 13(86.7%) | | 19 | 4(21.1%) | 15(78.9%) | |
| T4b | 54 | 5(9.3%) | 49(90.7%) | | 49 | 4(8.2%) | 45(91.8%) | |
| Lymph node metastasis | | | | 0.020 | | | | 0.191 |
| N0 | 197 | 45(22.8%) | 152(77.2%) | | 132 | 29(22.0%) | 103(78.0%) | |
| N1 | 99 | 16(16.2%) | 83(83.8%) | | 78 | 14(17.9%) | 64(82.1%) | |
| N2 | 41 | 2(4.9%) | 39(95.1%) | | 35 | 3(8.6%) | 32(91.4%) | |
| Metastasis | | | | 0.151 | | | | 0.070 |
| M0 | 298 | 59(19.8%) | 239(80.2%) | | 215 | 44(20.5%) | 171(79.5%) | |
| M1 | 39 | 4(10.3%) | 35(89.7%) | | 30 | 2(6.7%) | 28(93.3%) | |
| TNM stage | | | | 0.066 | | | | 0.109 |
| I | 52 | 12(23.1%) | 40(76.9%) | | 42 | 12(28.6%) | 30(71.4%) | |
| II | 133 | 32(24.1%) | 101(75.9%) | | 82 | 17(20.7%) | 65(79.3%) | |
| III | 113 | 15(13.3%) | 98(86.7%) | | 91 | 15(16.5%) | 76(83.5%) | |
| IV | 39 | 4(10.3%) | 35(89.7%) | | 30 | 2(6.7%) | 28(93.3%) | |
| CD66b cells/field(mean±SD) | | 74.1±41.1 | 61.5±40.1 | 0.027 | | 79.2±33.5 | 53.6±36.0 | <0.0001 |
| IL-37 | | | | 0.0004 | | | | 0.533 |
| low | 169 | 19(11.2%) | 150(88.8%) | | 122 | 21(17.2%) | 101(82.8%) | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----------|------------|-------|-----|-----------|-------------|------|
| high | 168 | 44(26.2%) | 124(73.8%) | | 123 | 25(20.3%) | 98(79.7%) | |
| CD66b | | | | 0.034 | | | | 0.02 |
| low | 63 | 24(14.2%) | 145(85.8%) | | 46 | 16(13.0%) | 107 (87.0%) | |
| high | 274 | 39(23.2%) | 129(76.8%) | | 199 | 30(24.6%) | 92(75.4%) | |

Table S3. Univariate association of IL-37, CD66b, MMR, clinicopathological characteristics with OS and DFS in the training cohort.

| Variables | Disease-free survival | | Overall survival | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| | HR (95% CI) | p value | HR (95% CI) | p value |
| Age(years) (≥ 60 vs. <60) | 1.005 (0.714-1.417) | 0.976 | 1.019 (0.711-1.461) | 0.917 |
| Gender (male vs. female) | 1.024 (0.721-1.455) | 0.894 | 1.020 (0.706-1.476) | 0.915 |
| Tumor location (colon vs.rectum) | 1.058 (0.750-1.492) | 0.747 | 1.040 (0.725-1.491) | 0.832 |
| Differentiation status | 1.341 (1.048-1.717) | 0.020 | 1.457 (1.128-1.881) | 0.004 |
| CEA(ng/ml) (elevated vs. normal) | 2.215 (1.565-3.134) | <0.0001 | 2.354 (1.638-3.382) | <0.0001 |
| CA199(ng/ml) (elevated vs. normal) | 1.804 (1.199-2.714) | 0.005 | 2.061 (1.361-3.120) | 0.001 |
| Depth of invasion | 2.230 (1.886-2.636) | <0.0001 | 2.296 (1.928-2.735) | <0.0001 |
| Lymph node metastasis | 2.488 (3.690-8.230) | <0.0001 | 2.838 (2.246-3.586) | <0.0001 |
| Metastasis (M1 vs. M0) | 5.510 (6.437-15.941) | <0.0001 | 6.638 (4.396-10.025) | <0.0001 |
| IL-37 (high vs. low) | 0.388 (0.270-0.559) | <0.0001 | 0.354 (0.240-0.521) | <0.0001 |
| CD66b (high vs. low) | 2.072 (1.454-2.954) | <0.0001 | 2.211 (1.520-3.217) | <0.0001 |
| MMR status (pMMR vs. dMMR) | 3.551 (1.862-6.774) | <0.0001 | 4.079 (1.989-8.365) | <0.0001 |

CEA: carcino-embryonic antigen.

Table S4. Univariate association of IL-37, CD66b, MMR, clinicopathological characteristics with OS and DFS in the validation cohort.

| Variables | Disease-free survival | | Overall survival | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| | HR (95% CI) | p value | HR (95% CI) | p value |
| Age(years) (≥ 60 vs. <60) | 1.133 (0.777-1.652) | 0.517 | 1.248 (0.829-1.881) | 0.288 |
| Gender (male vs. female) | 1.411 (0.951-2.095) | 0.088 | 1.530 (0.993-2.358) | 0.054 |
| Tumor location (colon vs. rectum) | 1.170 (0.802-1.707) | 0.416 | 1.124 (0.746-1.692) | 0.577 |
| Differentiation status | 1.482 (1.128-1.948) | 0.005 | 1.506 (1.120-2.025) | 0.007 |
| CEA(ng/ml) (elevated vs. normal) | 2.396 (1.631-3.518) | <0.0001 | 2.451 (1.621-3.705) | <0.0001 |
| CA199(ng/ml) (elevated vs. normal) | 1.896 (1.224-2.930) | 0.004 | 1.897 (1.190-3.023) | 0.007 |
| Depth of invasion | 1.477 (1.251-1.743) | <0.0001 | 1.501 (1.256-1.795) | <0.0001 |
| Lymph node metastasis | 2.076 (1.629-2.647) | <0.0001 | 2.239 (1.724-2.908) | <0.0001 |
| Metastasis (M1 vs. M0) | 5.003 (3.156-7.929) | <0.0001 | 5.123 (3.191-8.223) | <0.0001 |
| IL-37 (high vs. low) | 0.394 (0.265-0.585) | <0.0001 | 0.424 (0.276-0.652) | <0.0001 |
| CD66b (high vs. low) | 1.768 (1.204-2.597) | 0.004 | 1.866 (1.227-2.839) | 0.004 |
| MMR status (pMMR vs. dMMR) | 2.157 (1.207-3.855) | 0.009 | 3.775 (1.744-8.170) | 0.001 |

CEA: carcino-embryonic antigen.