**CONCLUSION &**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

 With studying the results of this work and their statistical analysis together with their comparison with other similar studies, high expression of MMP-9 was observed in tumor cells of CRC cases.

 The current study results suggest that MMP-9 plays an important role in invasion and metastasis of CRC, and thus becomes a useful indicator for clinical assessment of tumor biological behavior. Also, MMP-9 expression might have important implications in colorectal cancer pathology and could be useful biological marker of malignant growth and types.

 A large proportion of patients included in this study were young and at advanced stage of CRC. These data emphasize the need to adopt a general population-based screening program which will reduce the CRC mortality.

 However, the study has some limitations due to its retrospective nature and the small number of cases. So; prospective studies for MMP-9 expression with a large sample size and more parametric evaluations (such as disease-specific survival (DSS), disease-free survival (DFS), treatment response and recurrence rates) are required to clarify the prognostic significance of MMP-9 expression in CRC patients.