

Table S1 The criteria for confirmation of circulating tumor cells and/or circulating tumor microemboli

Type	Criteria [†]
CTC	Meets 4 or more parameters; if parameter A is met, plus the other two parameters can also be interpreted as CTC
Suspected CTC	Any three parameters other than parameter F are satisfied; or parameter F is satisfied separately
CTM	≥3 cells that can be identified as CTC cell cluster
Suspected CTM	≥3 cells are clustered, but no obvious nuclear atypia. When it is not enough to be interpreted as CTC, such cell clusters are interpreted as suspected CTM

[†] The parameters are as follows: A, Nuclear shift, or large nucleoli, or abnormal nuclear division; B, Nuclear atypia (nuclear morphological irregularities, nodular, lobulated, etc.); C, Nucleo-cytoplasmic ratio >0.8; D, Cell diameter (long end) >15 μ m; E, Deep stained nuclear and/or uneven stain; F, Thickened nuclear membrane. CTM, circulating tumor microemboli; CTCs, circulating tumor cells.