

Figure S1. Boxplots of the relative expression of circUSP3, circMETTL3 and their linear counterparts in leukocytes from patients with CRC in different cancer stages. None of the genes were differentially regulated. Data are presented as the mean \pm SEM and were analyzed using Welch's one-way ANOVA test. Due to the limited number of stage-I and stage-II samples, these were grouped. circ, circular; lin, linear; METTL3, methyltransferase-like 3; USP3, ubiquitin-specific peptidase 3.

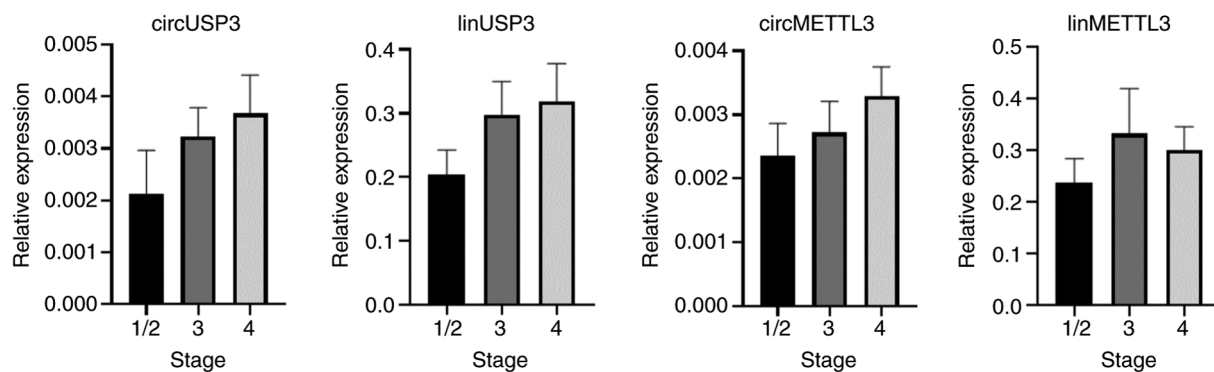


Figure S2. Boxplots of the relative expression of circUSP3, circMETTL3 and their linear counterparts in leukocytes from female and male patients with CRC. None of the genes were differentially regulated. Data are presented as the mean \pm SEM and were analyzed using Welch's t-test. circ, circular; lin, linear; METTL3, methyltransferase-like 3; USP3, ubiquitin-specific peptidase 3.

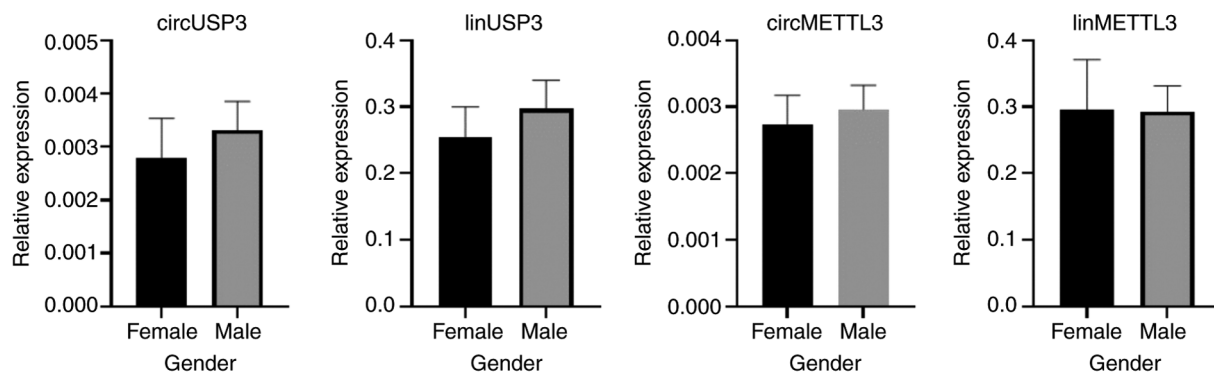


Figure S3. Boxplots of the relative expression of circUSP3, circMETTL3 and their linear counterparts in leukocytes from patients with CRC of different age groups. None of the genes were differentially regulated. Data are presented as the mean \pm SEM and were analyzed using Welch's one-way ANOVA. circ, circular; lin, linear; METTL3, methyltransferase-like 3; USP3, ubiquitin-specific peptidase 3.

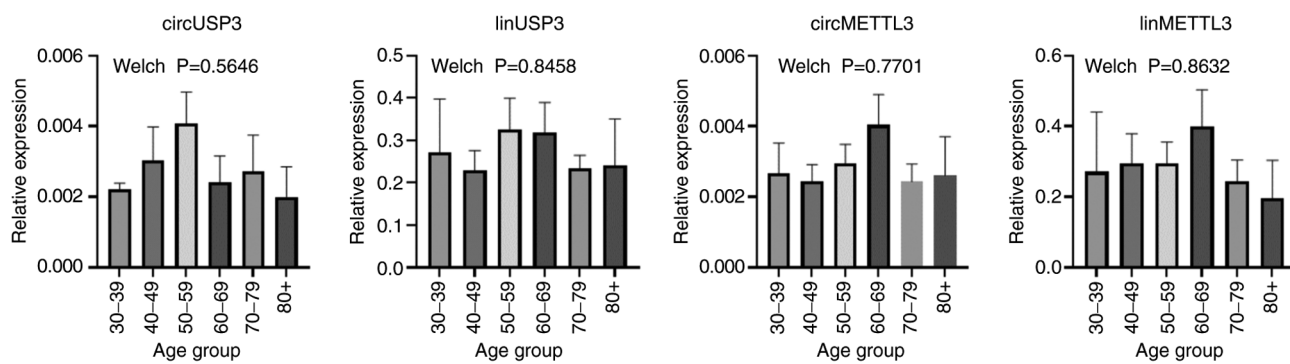


Table SI. Relative expression summary for the initial analysis between 8 CRC and 8 normal leukocyte samples.

Assay	Mean corrected relative expression (control)		Difference between means \pm SEM	Average fold change \pm SEM	Fold change P-value
	Control	CRC			
ciRS-7	0.0005	0.0006	0.0001 \pm 0.0002	1.2210 \pm 0.3546	0.5423
circMETTL3	0.0039	0.0065	0.0026 \pm 0.0011	1.6578 \pm 0.2756	0.0302
linMETTL3	0.0659	0.1423	0.0764 \pm 0.0210	2.1586 \pm 0.3185	0.0022
circSHPRH	0.0039	0.0065	0.0025 \pm 0.0011	1.6452 \pm 0.2717	0.0306
linSHPRH	0.0111	0.0152	0.0041 \pm 0.0074	1.3667 \pm 0.6675	0.5881
circUSP3	0.0021	0.0046	0.0025 \pm 0.0014	2.1670 \pm 0.6803	0.1142
linUSP3	0.0127	0.0268	0.0141 \pm 0.0025	2.1142 \pm 0.1931	<0.0001

CRC, colorectal cancer; circ, circular; lin, linear.