

Figure S1. Kaplan-Meier analysis of overall survival according to activin A mRNA expression level in The Cancer Genome Atlas dataset of patients with colorectal cancer (n=443).

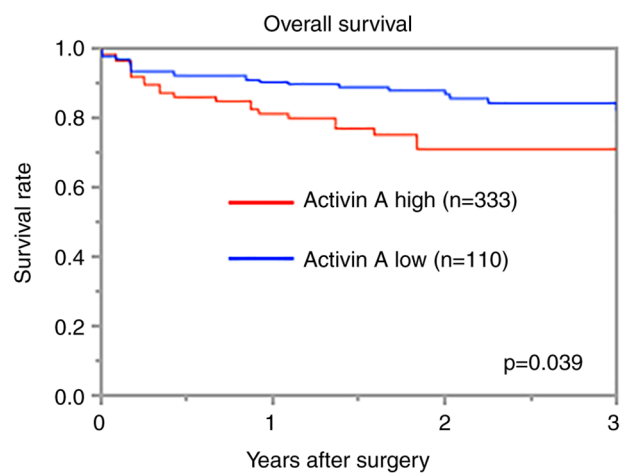


Figure S2. Immunohistochemical staining of activin A in CRC tissue sections. Representative images of (A) activin A expression in CRC tissue (magnification, x40) and (B) magnified window from A (magnification, x200). (C) Normal colon epithelium and activin A-negative CRC (magnification, x100). Upper half (dotted line), normal epithelium; lower half (solid line), activin A-negative CRC. CRC, colorectal cancer.

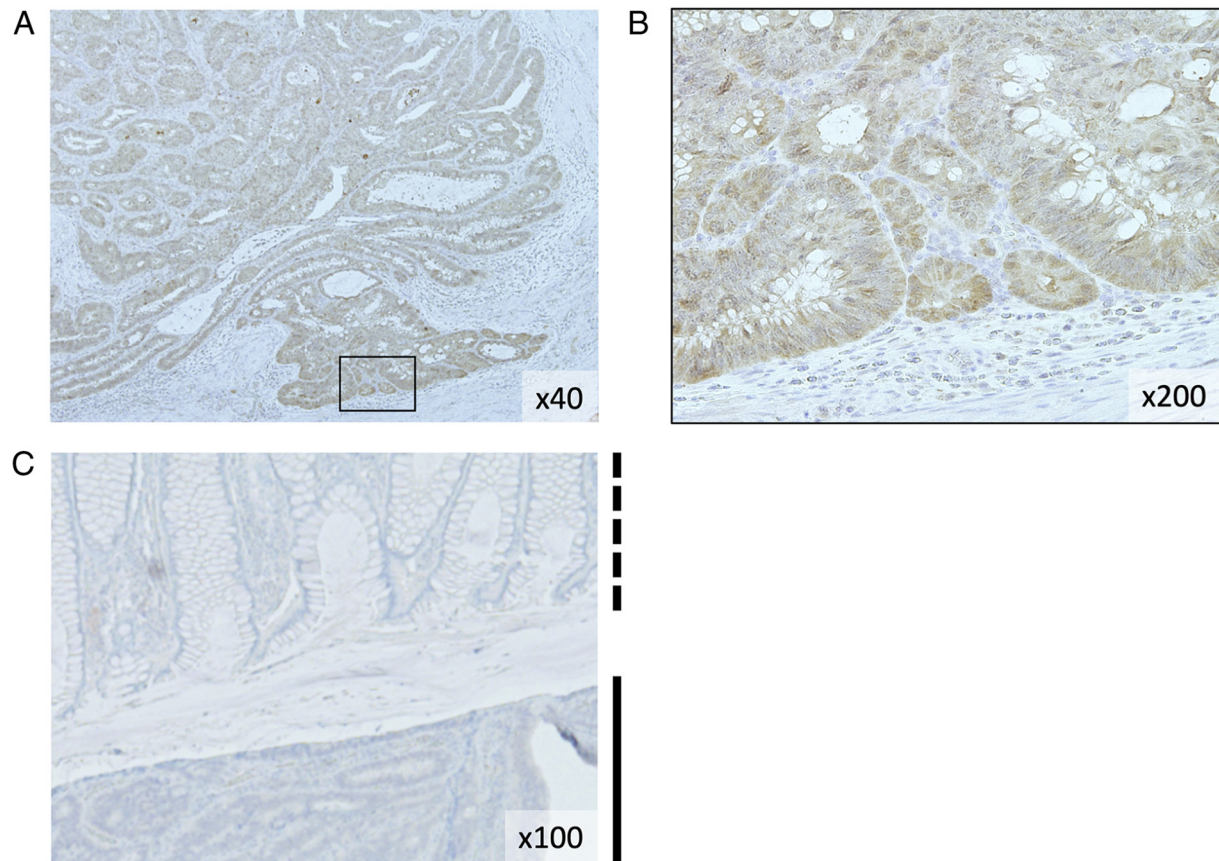


Figure S3. Reverse transcription-quantitative PCR analysis of activin A mRNA expression in human colorectal cancer cell lines. Data were normalized to  $\beta$ -actin mRNA levels and are presented as the means of triplicates.

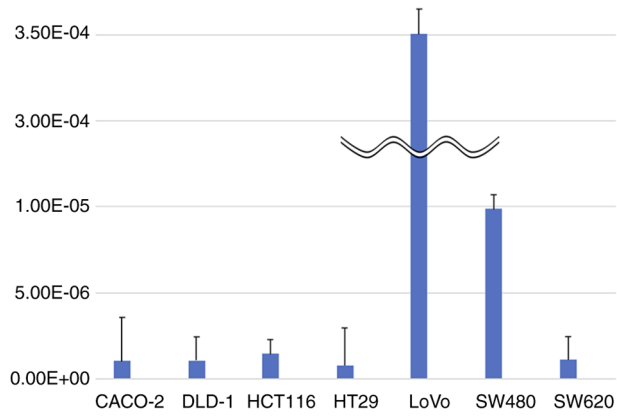


Figure S4. Proliferation, invasion and migration of SW620 cells after exposure to activin A *in vitro*. (A) Cells were exposed to 10 ng/ml activin A or medium (Ctrl) for the indicated times and proliferation was measured using the Cell Counting Kit-8 assay. (B) Images (left) and quantification (right) of invasion of SW620 cells after incubation with 10 ng/ml activin A or medium (Ctrl) for 24 h (magnification, x40). (C) Images (left) and quantification (right) of migration of SW620 cells exposed to 10 ng/ml activin A or medium (Ctrl) for 24 h. Values are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of triplicates. \* $P < 0.05$ . Ctrl, control.

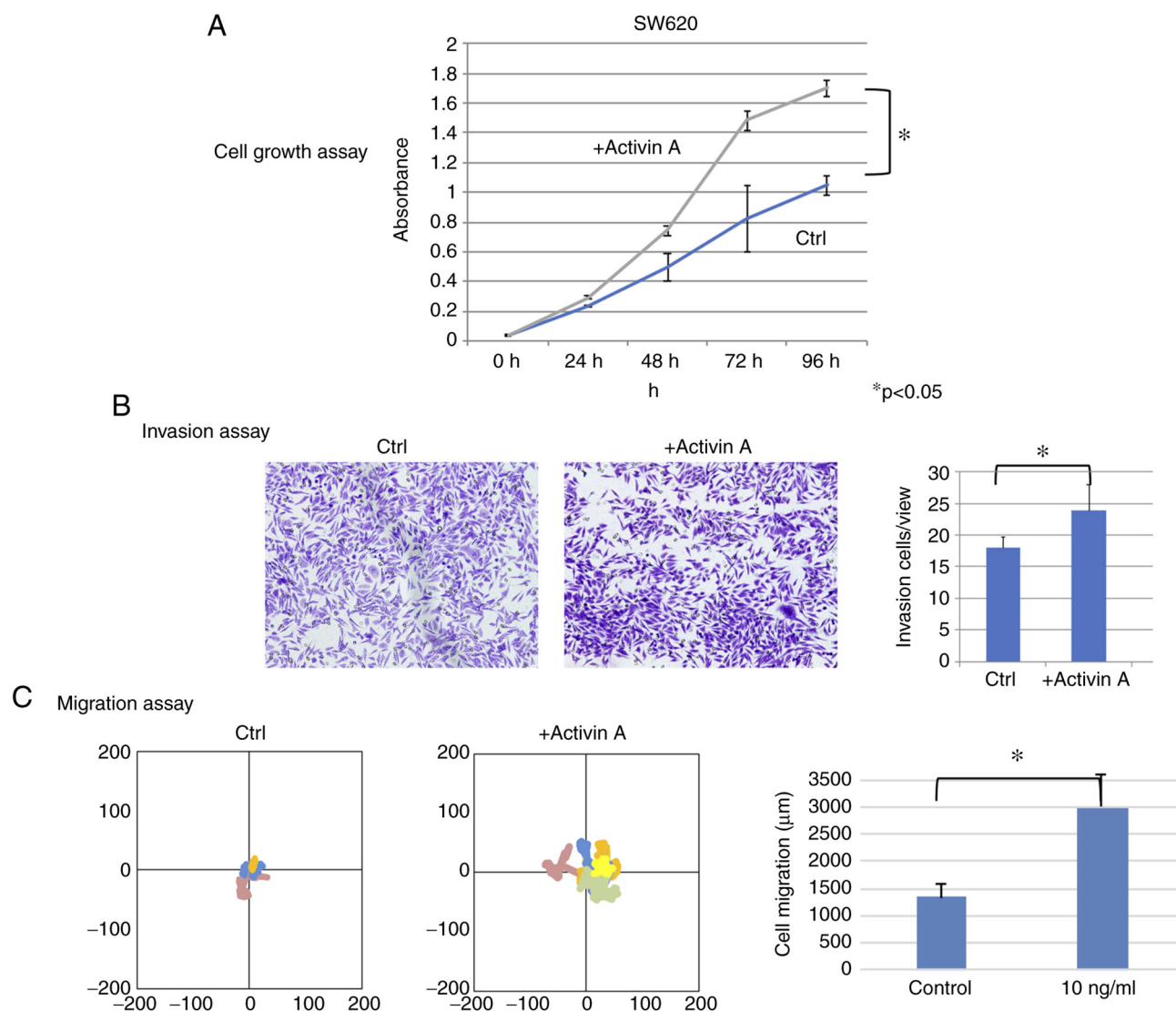


Figure S5. Activin A mRNA expression in cell lines transfected with siRNAs. (A) LoVo cells and (B) SW480 cells were transfected with one of two activin A-specific siRNAs (si#1, si#2) or a control siRNA (siCtrl) for 24 h, and activin A mRNA levels were analyzed by reverse transcription-quantitative PCR. Data were normalized to  $\beta$ -actin mRNA levels and are presented as the mean of triplicates. \* $P < 0.05$ . siRNA, small interfering RNA.

