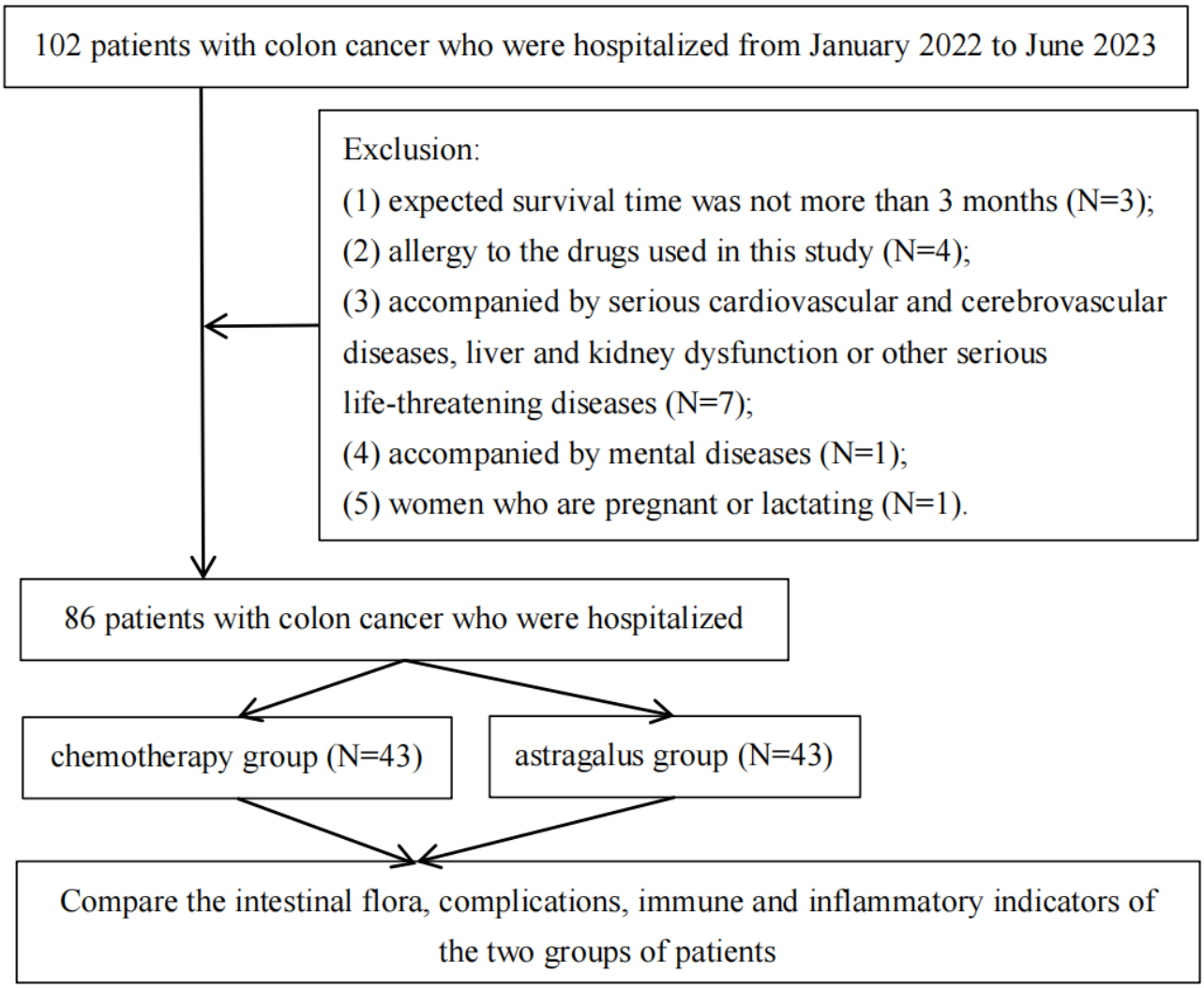

Fig. S1: Flow chart

STROBE Statement—checklist of items that should be included in reports of observational studies

	Item No.	Recommendation	Page No.	Relevant text from manuscript
Title and abstract	1	(*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1	The study included 86 patients.....
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	1	TCM formula based on astragalus can effectively regulate .....
Introduction				
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	1	Colon cancer is a malignant tumor ...
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses		However, the efficacy of *Astragalus membranaceus*.....
Methods				
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	3	Study design, sample size selection...
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	3	86 patients ... from January 2022 to June 2023 ...
Participants	6	(*a*) *Cohort study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up *Case-control study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of case ascertainment and control selection. Give the rationale for the choice of cases and controls *Cross-sectional study*—Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	3	Inclusion and exclusion criteria.....
		(*b*) *Cohort study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed *Case-control study*—For matched studies, give matching criteria and the number of controls per case	3	The patients were divided into chemotherapy (Che) and astragalus (Ast) groups according to the treatment plan of the patients.....
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	3	Observation indicators (1) Fresh feces (4-6 g) were .....
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	3	Observation indicators.....
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	3	the basic information of the two groups...
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	3	86 patients with colon cancer who were...

Continued on next page

Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	3	The patients were divided into chemotherapy (Che) and astragalus (Ast) groups according to the treatment plan of the patients.....
Statistical methods	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	3	SPSS 26.0 software was used for.....
		(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	4	Measurement data conforming to .....
		(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed	/	Missing data has been excluded
		(*d*) *Cohort study*—If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed *Case-control study*—If applicable, explain how matching of cases and controls was addressed *Cross-sectional study*—If applicable, describe analytical methods taking account of sampling strategy	4	
		(*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses	4	$P < 0.05$ was considered to .....
Results				
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	3	86 patients with colon cancer who were...
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	3	Exclusion criteria...
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	3	Attached is the flowchart (Figure S1)
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	3	Basic information about patients.....
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	/	There are no missing data.
		(c) *Cohort study*—Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	3	The treatment lasted for 14 days, followed by 7 days of drug withdrawal and 21 days was a course of treatment.
Outcome data	15*	*Cohort study*—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	3	Observation indicators.....
		Case-control study—Report numbers in each exposure category, or summary measures of exposure	3	Observation indicators.....
		Cross-sectional study—Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	3	Observation indicators.....
Main results	16	(*a*) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	4	Results.....
		(*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	4	Results.....
		(*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	4	Results.....

Continued on next page

Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	4	Results.....
Discussion				
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	4	Postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy can improve the radical cure rate of colorectal cancer.
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	8	However, this study also has some limitations. First.....
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	8	Furthermore, the relatively limited sample size and the limitation.....
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	8	which may partly affect the reliability and generalizability of the study results.
Other information				
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	8	There was no funding.

*Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at http://www.plosmedicine.org/, Annals of Internal Medicine at http://www.annals.org/, and Epidemiology at http://www.epidem.com/). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.