Reviewer's report

Title: The gene-reduction effect of chromosomal losses detected in gastric cancers

Version: 1 Date: 19 August 2010

Reviewer: Jun Yu

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This manuscript reported the cell-adverse effect of gene reduction in relation to gastric cancer differentiation types. They demonstrated that detection of loss of heterozygosity using microsatellite analysis may have the potential as a method of pretreatment genetic diagnosis marker. They concluded that the cell-adverse effect of gene reduction is more tolerated in intestinal-type gastric cancers than in diffuse-type cancers, and the loss of high-dose genes is associated with hematogenous metastasis. The study is generally well designed. However, there are several major comments should be addressed:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1) As shown in Table 3, in high-risk genotypes, age is positively correlated with LOH level. When it comes to low-risk genotypes, age is negatively correlated with LOH level. This phenomenon should be discussed accordingly?
2) The age and gender should be included in the models of multivariate analysis, no matter they were significant or not.

Minor Revisions
1) Page8, Paragraph 1, Line 1: “One hundred forty-five” should be “One hundred and forty-five”.
2) Page8, Paragraph 1, Line 4: “One hundred sixteen” should be “One hundred and sixteen”.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.