Reviewer’s report

Title: Metastatic lymph node in gastric cancer; Is it a real distant metastasis?

Version: 4 Date: 4 December 2008

Reviewer: Yoshihiko Maehara

Reviewer’s report:

The authors evaluated the survival and prognosis of gastric cancer patients with LN#12 or #13 involvement only and assessed the impact of anatomic regions of primary gastric tumor on survival in this particular subset of patients. As they analyzed the patients with LN#12 or #13 involvement only, it is difficult to conclude that curatively resected gastric cancer patients with pathologic involvement of LN #12 and/or LN #13 had favorable survival outcome, especially those with primary tumor location of mid-body to antrum. They should compare patients with LN#12 or #13 involvement to those without involvement. It seems to be difficult to publish this article in the present style and contents.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.