Reviewer's report

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

Version: 4 Date: 10 February 2009

Reviewer: Giovanni de Manzoni

Reviewer's report:

Number 12 nodes are evaluated together but it is well known that the node in the anterior part (12a) are routinely dissected in D2 dissection and are not considered in the JGCA Classification as distant metastasis. It is necessary that the authors analyze their series dividing node 12a from the other nodes of the hepatoduodenal ligament.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.