Reviewer's report

Title: Soluble Fas/Fas Ligand might serve as a diagnostic tool for gastric adenocarcinoma

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Reviewer: Yue Fu

Reviewer's report:

1. This study is designed to verify sFas/sFasL as biomarker for early diagnosis of gastric cancer. And as far as we know, dysregulation of Fas/Fas Ligand has been proposed to play a role in the development of many kind of cancer including gastric carcinoma. Researchers have found that serum sFas levels been higher in patients with gastric carcinoma (Akiko Tamakoshi, Int. J. Cancer, 2008; Liang QL, Ai Zheng, 2002), and serum sFasL level may be useful in evaluating preoperative diagnosis and serve as a prognostic biomarker for stomach cancer (Tsutsumi S, Cancer, 2000; Lim SC, Oncol Rep, 2002). So, according to upon researches, it is pity that this manuscript is not presented sufficient innovation to meet publication criteria. (Major Compulsory Revisions)

2# The conclusion that Serum level of sFas may serve as a non-invasive tool for "early" diagnosis of gastric cancer is not supported by the data well.
Although the authors observed an increasing gradient for mean serum level of sFas, the difference of serum sFas level between three non-tumoral subgroups (especially precancerous lesions vs. chronic active gastritis and precancerous lesions vs. normal) had not been statistically analyzed. The claim was not convincing.
(Major Compulsory Revisions)

3. Data showed in tables and figures is not well presented.
In table 2, 3 and 4, as well as figure 1, I cannot find the exact number of the sample in each subgroup.
In table 2 and 4, the unit of the serum level of sFas/sFasL is not presented.
In figure1, the data only show the exact value of sFas in four groups, however statistical significance has not been presented in the figure.
(Major Compulsory Revisions)

4. Since the data do not prove the conclusion in the title it may be changed to remove the words “sFas ligand”.
(Discretionary Revisions)

5. Interestingly, the authors found serum level of sFasL in patients with non-cardiac type of gastric cancer was significantly higher than that in patients with cardiac type of gastric cancer. This deserves further research.
(Discretionary Revisions)

6. Table 2: “meam” should be changed to “mean”.

(Minor Essential Revisions)

7. Table 1, actually, is not necessary.
The data showed in the table is not relative to the purpose of the investigation.

(Minor Essential Revisions)

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**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