Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Wataru Ichikawa

Reviewer's report:

This is the study to evaluate the associations of soluble Fas/Fas ligand and both gastric carcinogenesis and cancer progression. There are several important issues which dampen the enthusiasm for this manuscript.

#Major 1
The authors indicated that the serum Fas is "statistically" higher in gastric cancer group as compared with non-tumoral group. However, in the cancerous group, the serum Fas decreased according to lymph node involvement. It seems to be strange. The authors should discuss this observation.

#Major 2
Although the descriptive characteristics of gastric adenocarcinoma and non-tumoral groups are quite different with the exception of opium addiction (Table 2), the authors compared the serum Fas/Fas ligand among two groups. This small cohort including 112 samples could not resolve the problem of co-existing factors to affect the serum Fas/Fas ligand. If the authors would clearly indicate the positive associations of soluble Fas/Fas ligand and gastric carcinogenesis, more number of samples should be collected to perform the multi-regression analysis.

#Minor 1
Table 2 is missed.

#Minor 2
The information for patient characteristics should be described more in detail. For example, numbers of patients should be indicated for each characteristics (Table 1, 3, 4, and Figure).

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.