Reviewer's report

Title: Increased serum levels of tumour-associated trypsin inhibitor independently predict a poor prognosis in colorectal cancer patients

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Reviewer: Young Jung

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript entitled "Increased serum levels of tumour-associated trypsin inhibitor (TATI) independently predict a poor prognosis in colorectal cancer patients" demonstrated that TATI in serum is an excellent tumor marker for CRC patients. This is very interesting and focused study. The topic has not been fully addressed to date. However, some comments are listed below that need to be addressed prior to publication.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Authors indicated that the prognostic value of sTATI is stronger than s-CEA. However, earlier published many papers reported the importance of CEA than any other tumor markers in CRC. The comparison of TATI with CEA in OS or DFS in CRC should be included in Results.

Minor Essential Revisions

To be a good independent predictor for prognosis, the sensitivity and specificity should be considered. Even the author shows the correlation of TATI and CEA in OS and in treated patients in Fig. 2, the sensitivity and specificity of TATI and CEA should be discussed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests