Reviewer's report

Title: Neutrophilic airways inflammation in lung cancer: the role of exhaled LTB-4 and IL-8

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Reviewer: Shinichiro Motohashi

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Increased levels of LTB4 and IL-8 in EBC and whole blood were clearly described in patients with NSCLC and concentration levels increased along with cancer progression. In the revised manuscript, the authors have added Figure 3 and corrected the number of patient. I have some minor comments.

Minor

1. NSCLC column data of Figure 1A must be the sum of Figure 2A. Despite the presence of low level data (less than 10 pg/ml) of LTB4 in each stage in Figure 2A, there is no data showing less than 10 pg/ml in Figure 1A.

2. In Figure 2A, the mean value of LTB4 in stage I, stage II and stage III seems to be around 25, 40, 45 pg/ml, though authors described 31.8, 42.5 and 55.0 pg/ml in the results section (page 8).

3. Figure 3A is not properly arranged.

4. In material and methods section (page 5), “Written informed consent was obtained from all subjects upon approval of the study by the Ethic Committees of the two hospitals with pleural effusion.” What dose this pleural effusion mean? Did all enrolled patients suffered from pleural effusion?

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

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.