Reviewer’s report

Title: Survival in patients with stage IV noncardia gastric cancer - the influence of DNA ploidy and Helicobacter Pylori infection.

Version: 1 Date: 29 March 2012

Reviewer: Masaki Aizawa

Reviewer’s report:

The authors report their retrospective analysis of clinical data including DNA ploidy in 218 patients with advanced gastric cancer who underwent by palliative surgery followed by postoperative chemotherapy.

Discretionary Revisions;
1. The title indicates the prognostic value of DNA ploidy and Helicobacter Pylori infection, but the weight of value of the later would be too low.
2. It should be mention whether all of patients were histologically diagnosed as adenocarcinoma or not.
3. The author should explain the superiority of DNA index in predicting the prognosis to other serological factors which were also related to the survival at the univariate analysis.
4. In the discussion, the section concerning Helicobacter pylori infection should be shortened. Because the weight in the result was low.
5. Please explain how the DNA index will affect the management of patients after palliative resection.

Minor Essential Revisions;
1. The cut-off value about albumin and CRP should be noted in Tables.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest.