Reviewer’s report

Title: Genetic Polymorphisms in Osteopontin Promoter Is Associated with the Distant Metastasis of Gastric Cancer and Poor Progress in Chinese Patients

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Reviewer: Kshitij Srivastava

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The manuscript titled "Genetic Polymorphisms in Osteopontin Promoter Is Associated with the Distant Metastasis of Gastric Cancer and Poor Progress in Chinese Patients' by Zhao et al shows that genetic variation at nt -443 in the OPN promoter may be associated with the gastric cancer metastasis. However, there are certain shortcomings in the present study:

1. The functional studies for nt -43 have already been reported in previous studies (Schultz et al. and other studies). So the Luciferase reporter assay done in the present study does not add any extra information.

2. The manuscript has not mentioned some important studies which demonstrate that Osteopontin increases metastasis (Song et al, Brown et al and Ue et al) in gastric cancer.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The rs number for the studied polymorphisms has not been mentioned.

2. The manuscript has several grammatical mistakes.

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