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:** xiaoxiang guan

**Reviewer's report:**

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

The manuscript of Fujun Zhao et al. describes a genetic association study of three potentially functional polymorphisms in the OPN genes promoter and the risk of gastric cancer in a Chinese patient population. However, the authors come to the conclusion that variation at nt -443 in the OPN promoter may be associated with the metastasis of gastric cancer. Purpose is risk, then conclusion is metastasis status, so it seems that this study has a confused aim.

Of the 200 patients Helicobacter pylori infection status, 62 patients are seronegative, 138 are seropositive. However, the authors have not evaluated if these two groups of patients differed in the frequency of genotypes, or if the observed association between the selected genotype and survival was restricted to a certain subtype (HP negative/positive)of gastric cancer patients included. Also, as shown in the table 3, the authors should evaluate the frequency of selected variants and TNM stage status.

Although the authors make an effort to do an analysis on the association between selected polymorphisms and metastasis of gastric cancer, the numbers of patients actually are too small to reliably address these issues. For example, as shown in the table3 and 4, for -443 CC genotype, only 1 for Ia, 2 for Ib, 1 forII, 4 for III and 14 for IV. So a well-designed study with larger sample sizes is needed to confirm this finding.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

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

**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 interests