Reviewer’s report

Title: Expression of a LINE-1 endonuclease variant in gastric cancer: its association with clinicopathological parameters

Version: 1 Date: 13 February 2013

Reviewer: Hideo Baba

Reviewer’s report:

“Major revision”
The authors examined GCRG213p that it could be a variant of L1-EN, a functional member of L1-EN family. It is doubtful that the content of this manuscript is interesting for the audience of BMC Cancer. There are some limitations in this report that considerably reduces importance and reliability of this report.

1) It is difficult to understand the negative staining of GCRG213p expression in the cytoplasm of the non-malignant gastric epithelia in Figure 1. They should demonstrate the higher magnification (x400 or more) from the area.

2) The authors mentioned that GCRG213p is associated with gastric mucosa aging and age-related entities. However there was no evidence that the group of intestinal metaplasia was older than the other groups of Table 2 in this report. They should show the clinicopathological parameters of each group of Table 2 and analyze the relationship between the groups and each parameter.

3) The level of LINE-1 methylation is regarded to be a surrogate marker of global DNA methylation (Cordaux R. Nat Rev Genet 2009). They had better examine the association between the level of LINE-1 methylation and the LINE-1 endonuclease variant in gastric cancer.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.