Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: Francesc Balaguer

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In this paper, Wang and colleagues analyze the expression of GCRG213 transcript in human gastric adenocarcinoma, precursor lesions and normal gastric mucosa, and correlate it with clinic-pathological features. The authors hypothesize that GCRG213 correspond to LINE-1 and find that overexpression correlate only with tumor differentiation and age >65 years.

Major Compulsory Revisions
- The authors hypothesize that GCRG213 peptide detected with their own antibody corresponds to L1 endonuclease based on in silico analyses. It is a very well known phenomenon that LINE1 is epigenetically silenced in normal differentiated tissues, and undergo hypomethylation in tumor tissues. In gastric cancer, there are several publications that show that LINE-1 hypomethylation is an early event and is associated with poor prognosis (i.e. Int J Cancer 2012). It would be advisable to correlate the expression levels of GCRG213 with methylation status of LINE1 in order to provide more evidence regarding the nature of the GCRG213 peptide.

Minor Essential Revisions
- Figure C. Intestinal metaplasia glands are not indicated with arrows (as stated in the text).
- Page 8. The authors state: “However, GCRG213p expression was not found to be associated with other clinicopathological parameters as those listed in Table 1 (p > 0.05).” Specific p values should be in Table 1.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

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