Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 30 April 2013

Reviewer: Hideo Baba

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Major Revision

The authors discussed the correlation of GCRG213 protein expression and clinicopathological parameters for gastric adenocarcinoma. It is interesting that there is a correlation between GCRG213 protein expression and tumor differentiation. However, there are some limitations in this report that considerably reduces importance of this report.

1. Given the important relationship between intestinal metaplasia and Helicobacter pylori infection, the authors should demonstrate the data on Helicobacter pylori infection status to show a correlation between GCRG213 protein expression and tumor differentiation.

2. There is no comment on the reason why the authors used only two cancer cell lines for Western blotting assays and three cell lines for Methylation specific PCR.

3. The authors should discuss about the intriguing result on Methylation specific PCR of LINE-1. In addition, Shigaki et al. demonstrated that LINE-1 hypomethylation was significantly associated with a poor prognosis in gastric cancer (Gastric Cancer, 2012). The author should cite this study.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.