Reviewer's report

Title: Prediction of Metachronous Multiple Primary Cancers Following the Curative Resection of Gastric Cancer

Version: 1 Date: 24 February 2013

Reviewer: Elizabeth Dennett

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The title is about the prediction of metachronous multiple primary cancers however the work reports a lot about synchronous multiple primary cancers. Consequently the results go backwards and forwards between the 2, the message is lost and the part that the title refers to is one short paragraph at the end of the results with the development of the nomogram not well described, this section needs to be rewritten.

2. The reported sites of MPC in patients post gastrectomy - the numbers are very small and the liberal use of percentages hides this, in addition it is not clear how the percentages have been calculated I could not obtain the same results based on the reported raw data. The data needs to be clarified and numbers instead or as well as percentages provided.

3. The discussion fails to make any mention of weaknesses in the study of which there are many that can best be described by the fact the study is retrospective and based on chart review. There may have been 3066 charts reviewed but this does not overcome the deficiencies in this type of study especially when the group of interest that is, those with metachronous MPC only contains 38 patients.

4. The nomogram strengths / weaknesses are inadequately discussed

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Explain how was it determined the liver MPC were new cancers and not metastatic cancers?

2. Table 1 – explain the abbreviations

3. Table 2 – is a very 'busy' table all the data about synchronous MPC could be removed as the paper is about metachronous MPC

4. Similarly table 3 - suggest removing the synchronous data

5. Figure 1- explain what is meant by chronicity of MPC?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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 have no competing financial or non-financial interests.