Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors influencing peritoneal metastasis in non-serosa-invasive gastric cancer: a retrospective study of a prospectively-collected database

Version: 3 Date: 13 March 2012

Reviewer: olivier glehen

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript reported factors that influenced peritoneal carcinomatosis development in non-serosa-invasive gastric cancer into a prospective collected database. This subject is of great importance in the management of this disease.

I will have major comments regarding the form and some minor comments

Major comments:
1/This manuscript was really difficult to read as each paragraph were not not at the good place: conclusion page 12 with "patients and methods" paragraph.
2/Abstract should be re-written. IFN should be introduced and defined into methods. Definition of dMP and SS appears less important
3/The technique of cytological examination should be defined (immunochemistry?) as well as peroperative technique of samples.
4/Table 3 and 4 should be incorporated into text and should be deleted
5/Legends of each acronyms should be given above each table

Minor comments
1/Authors should comment into discussion the timing of peroperative cytology (after surgical dissection, the rate of positive peritoneal cytology may be higher)
2/Conclusions should underline the role of IFN which constitutes a relatively unknown prognostic factor and that appeared into their work as a major prognostic factor for peritoneal recurrence and for prognosis
3/The form extensively used ".....was set to 1......" into results chapter should be changed.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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