Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 5  **Date:** 4 October 2012  

**Reviewer:** Richard Szydlo

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In the Results section "Univariate and multivariate analyses of peritoneal metastasis" hazard ratios are quoted for various factors (table 2). Table 1 shows univariate analyses of categorical data. The multivariate extension of univariate analyses is logistic regression which generates odd ratios and not hazard ratios. Reference groups should be included in the multivariate table as well as numbers of patients in each group.

The survival analysis. Only 70 patients were included in this analysis? Why was the analysis restricted to over 10 yrs follow-up.? From the survival curves in the figures it would appear that there are many more than 70 patients included. Table 4 shows results of the multivariate analysis, but shows that variables were added as a continuous variable instead of categorical. No reference groups are presented and we have no idea how many patients were included. Showing isolated univariate analysis is not appropriate if there are additional factors that have a strong influence on outcome.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests'