Reviewer's report

Title: Up-regulation of CLDN1 in gastric cancer is correlated with reduced survival

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Reviewer: Jie Liang

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In this study, Lars L Eftang et al used paired tumor and control mucosa for microarray for identification serials of differential expressed genes. And further proved that CLDN1 was up-regulated in gastric cancer, which was independently associated with poor post-operative prognosis value. IL-8 and CLDN1 may represent central links between the gene responses seen in acute H. pylori infection of gastric epithelial cells, and ultimately gastric cancer.

Major comments:

Research on CLCN family and GI cancer has been widely investigated. As the paper cited, previous studies have shown that relationship between CLCN1 and gastric cancer been controversial. Like following:


(2) Claudin-1 has tumor suppressive activity and is a direct target of RUNX3 in gastric epithelial cells. (Gastroenterology. 2010 Jan;138(1):255-65.e1-3.)

(3) The expression of claudin-1 was significantly lower in cases of intestinal type adenocarcinoma based on the Lauren classification. (J Surg Res. 2011 May 15;167(2):e185-91)

This study based their work mainly on the results from microarray. However, what’s the reason between different results on CLCN1 and gastric cancer is still unknown.

I would suggest the authors further investigate the possible reason and link between CLCN1 and gastric cancer with subgroup analysis, like according to Lauren classification, Hp infection, and different stage et al. Then we are looking forward to get a clue why relationship between CLCN1 and gastric cancer is different.

Minor comments:

English grammar needs to be polished by a native English speaker. Some portions of the paper are poorly written. The whole manuscript contains many grammatical errors.
**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:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests’