Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Methylene Blue-Assisted Technique for Harvesting Lymph Nodes after Radical Surgery for Gastric cancer: A Prospective Randomized Phase III Study

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 16 August 2013

**Reviewer:** Iai meng Looi

**Reviewer’s report:**

Minor essential revisions

(1) The concentration of methylene-blue in the formalin used to fix the specimens should be stated and be standardized throughout the study.

(2) Although it is planned to fix the specimens (methylene-blue assisted method) for 48 hours, in practice, such exactness is not realistic. An acceptable range of fixation time may be more reasonable.

(3) Be more explicit in stating that LN harvesting in both arms are done by surgeons. Because formalin-fixed specimens are usually handled by pathologists, readers may be confused as to who handles the fixed specimens in this study.

**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 declare that I have no competing interests.