Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic and predictive value of cathepsin X in serum from colorectal cancer patients

Version: 1 Date: 24 February 2014

Reviewer: Krzysztof Zwierz

Reviewer's report:

1. The question posed by authors is well defined.
2. The methods are appropriate and well described.
3. The data are reliable.
4. The manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.
5. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data.
6. Limitations of the work are clearly stated.
7. The authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished.
8. The title and abstract accurately convey what has been found.
9. I am not competent in evaluating quality of English in articles, however in conclusions I propose considering the following text:

Our results do not confirm the association of cathepsin X with overall survival for the entire set of 264 colorectal patients but only for patients in stages I-III with local resectable disease. Moreover, a significant association of cathepsin X with overall survival within a group of patients in stages I-III, who did receive chemotherapy suggest a possible predictive value for response to chemotherapy, in this group of patients, which has to be confirmed in a further study.

At page 8, 3rd line from the bottom „envoriment” should be changed to „environment”?

In References at the 27, 31 and 43th positions capital letters should be changed to small letters. eg. in Wang J, Chen LL, Li Y, Guan XY: Overexpression of cathepsin Z contributes to tumor metastasis by inducing epithelial-mesenchymal transition in hepatocellular carcinoma. PLoS One 2011,6:e24967.