Reviewer’s report

Title: Establishment of serum YKL-40 and SCCA combination for the diagnosis of patients with esophageal squamous cell carcinoma

Version: 5 Date: 21 May 2014

Reviewer: Xiaoxia Wang

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Discretionary Revisions

1. The results in Fig. 1 showed that YKL-40 was highly expressed in ESSC cells and tumor tissues. YKL-40 protein in ESSC cells and tumor tissues detected by Western-blot will strengthen the above results.

2. Serum YKL-40 may be a potential diagnosis marker for ESCC. However, if the authors can establish that expression of serum YKL-40 correlates with poor prognosis, its clinical significance could be further elevated.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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