Reviewer's report

Title: Circulating tumor cells and survival of patients with gastric cancer: a meta-analysis

Version: 6 Date: 26 August 2014

Reviewer: Nuh N Rahbari

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed my comments appropriately. However, I do not agree with the reviewers that miRNAs should be considered to indicate CTC. They just represent biologically very different entities that need to be dealt with separately. While I would accept that studies on CTC and miRNA are pooled in separate forest plots, I would not accept pooling these studies in the same plots. The authors should either remove studies on miRNA completely or or include them in separate meta-analyses. If the authors decide to keep the studies on miRNA in their manuscript they should clearly indicate this in the title and throughout the paper to make sure CTC and miRNA are not different biological entities.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests regarding the above issues.