Reviewer's report

**Title:** CXCR4 expression on circulating pan-cytokeratin positive cells is associated with survival in patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer

**Version:** 9 **Date:** 4 June 2009

**Reviewer:** Hironao Yasuoka

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The revised manuscript appears to respond to the most queries. The authors showed that combined pan-cytokeratin/CXCR4 expression was increased in patients with NSCLC, but the results was not significant (p = 0.11), however, why high circulating pan-cytokeratin/CXCR4 expression was correlated with poorer prognosis although combined pan-cytokeratin/CXCR4 expression was not significantly correlated between normal controls and NSCLC patients statistically? I would propose the above issue should be described in the discussion section. This procedure should make the discussion section more attractive than the present form.

Otherwise, there are still a few points to be revised.

(1) In the Abstract, line 6, on circulating pan-cytokeratin “positive” cells is preferable.

(2) In the Abstract, line 7, “Results:”, black color is preferable.

(3) In the Results (Low Circulating CXCR4 and Pan-cytokeratin Expression Predicts for Improved Survival), “In this these patients”, “this” should be deleted.

**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 declare that I have no competing interests.