Reviewer's report

**Title:** Preoperative serum carcinoembryonic antigen, albumin and age are supplementary to UICC staging systems in predicting survival for colorectal cancer patients undergoing surgical treatment

**Version:** 4 **Date:** 11 July 2009

**Reviewer:** Yutaka Ogata

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The present study has shown serum CEA and albumin levels as an independent predictor of cancer-specific survival in colorectal cancer patients in addition to the UICC stage. In particular, the serum CEA level was a significant predictor of cancer-specific survival even in both UICC stage II and stage III after surgery. This information would contribute the clinical practice in colorectal cancer patients after potential curative operation for determination of adjuvant chemotherapy and follow-up schedule. The authors should discuss them rather than the usefulness of combination assay for survival, because of inadequate categorization of UICC stage I/II and III/IV.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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