Reviewer's report

Title: Predictive Value of Preoperative Serum CCL2, CCL18, and VEGF for the Patients with Gastric Cancer

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Reviewer: Masakazu Yashiro

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The study by Wu and colleagues investigates the expression of chemokine ligands and VEGF in peripheral blood of patients with gastric cancer. The preoperative serum levels of CCL2, CCL18 and VEGF were significantly higher than that of controls and the prediction rate of presence of gastric cancer utilizing both VEGF and CCL2 revealed high sensitivity and specificity.

The manuscript is well modified. However, I regrettably should say that it is still immature for publication. In the present form, it is not possible to say that they respond correctly to our questions. First, they have not proven the novelty of their study. The authors surly discuss the significance to investigate the serum level of chemokine ligands and VEGF more in detail. Secondly, to develop this study, it is important to add the data which shows comparative analysis including clinically available tumor markers for gastric cancer, such as CEA, which might be acceptable as a supplemental data.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'