Reviewer’s report

Title: In situ pepsinogen I production and stepwise progression from normal mucosa, superficial gastritis, atrophic gastritis to gastric cancer

Version: 1 Date: 5 February 2013

Reviewer: Lin Shen

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions#
1. Though the design of this study is very good, the messages are not new in this study, and the study has limited value to clinical works.
2. The article should give the details about serum expression of PGI in different gastric mucosa and Correlation between in situ and serum expression of PGI. Is the result similar to previous studies? It is the major result of the study.
3. It seems that “Influence of H. pylori status on in situ PGI expression” is not necessary to aim of the study.
4. The research can expand the sample size, or, if the study could find several patients who have stomach mucosa changed along the sequence of NOR->GS->GA->GC, the result would be more reliable.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. The writing of the following sentences should be improved:
   a) “Material and Methods” part ; Serum PGI antibody assay: the second sentences: “The blood was centrifuged at 3000 r/min for 10 min and the serum aliquot was stored immediately at -20_ and then shifted to an environment at -70_ for the determination. Serum pepsinogen I (sPGI) concentration was detected by ELISA kit (Biohit Co., Ltd., Finland).”
   b) “Discussion” Part: the first paragraph, second sentence: In present study, we found that the in situ expression of PGI was exclusively located in gastric corpus and angular gland cells, but not in gastric antrum.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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