Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Ana Elizabete Silva

Reviewer's report:

The authors conducted the study to evaluate the expression levels of pepsinogen I (PSI) during progression of normal gastric mucosa (NOR), superficial gastritis (GS), atrophic gastritis (GA) and gastric cancer (GC) in comparison with serum levels and influence of H. pylori infection. They evaluated 185 subjects grouped in 30 NOR, 70 GS, 54 GA and 31 GC. Both PGI expression in situ and serum were detected by immunohistochemistry and ELISA assays, respectively. The results are interesting and revealed a progressive decreased of in situ PGI expression along the sequence of NOR->GS->GA->GC, so in situ PGI expression can be a potent marker for help distinguish the benign gastric lesions from the atrophic gastritis and gastric cancer.

Minor Essential revisions:

1- In Material and Methods section - page 7: the temperatures are misconfigured: “at -20_ and then shifted to an environment at -70_”

2- The text presents some spelling and grammar errors, as:
- Results - page 8: H. pylori statuses – to correct for H. pylori status.
- Discussion – page 9: secretary granules of chief cells – to correct for secretory granules of chief cells.
- Table 3 – page 30: Legend: GS (Superficial gastriyis) – to correct for GS (Superficial gastritis).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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'.