Reviewer's report

Title: Ki-67 is a Strong Prognostic Marker of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer When Tissue Heterogeneity is considered.

Version: 2
Date: 29 March 2014
Reviewer: Krzysztof OKon

Reviewer's report:

In my opinion the manuscript by Tabata et al. is an excellent piece of analytic work, yet some issues need to clarified before it may be accepted.

Major compulsory revisions:
none

Minor essential revision:
1. The term 'non small cell lung cancer' is used in the title and in the text, yet the material includes also 3 small cell carcinomas. I would remove the latter from the analysis or drop the term 'non small cell', with preference for the former solution.
2. Pathological stage in the 'Results' sections is described by stage groups, and I would prefer the full pTNM classes.
3. 'Correlation' is used in the results, while no correlation coefficient was used; I think it is better to say that eg. there was a significant differences in HS between stages, and not that the there was a correlation between HS and stage.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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