Reviewer's report

Title: Innovative method using circulating tumor cells for prediction of the effects of induction therapy on locally advanced non-small cell lung cancer

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Reviewer: Noriyoshi Sawabata

Reviewer's report:

Tarumi et al reported on circulating tumor cell (CTC) in patients with non-small cell lung cancer who underwent induction therapy, resulting in CTC count in the pulmonary vein (pvCTC) was negative in cases of pathologically complete response, while positive in other cases. These findings are very interesting and may have crucial clinical implications. Although there is a serious limitation of small number of patients, the results of pvCTC are obviously as such this manuscript has a potential of being accepted followed by some revises.

Major

1. Page 6 line 10; How pathological diagnosis was defined should be cleared. For example, authors defined from the comment of clinical records, a pathologist made new examination for diagnosis of response and so on. If pathologists contributed to make diagnosis, appreciation is needed as acknowledgement.

Minor

1. Page 4 lines 3-4: Registry data is preferable such as report from Japanese Joint Committee of Lung Cancer Registry.

2. Page 8 lines 15-16; pvCTC count was negative in all CR cases, thus “pvCTC count … major/minor response.” had better be changed to “CTC count was negative in cases of CR, while positive in other cases.”

Page 10 line14: The information of “clustered cells hardly extracted from the blood by CellSurch system” is needed.

Page 11 lines 10-11: The last sentence is not necessary because there are no data regarding this concept.

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 have no conflict of interest to be declared.