Reviewer’s report

Title: Influence of laparoscopic-assisted gastrectomy and open gastrectomy on serum interleukin-6 levels in patients with gastric cancer among Asian populations

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Reviewer: Toru Aoyama

Reviewer’s report:

The authors reviewed and evaluated the influence of laparoscopic-assisted gastrectomy (LAG) and open gastrectomy (OG) on serum interleukin-6 (IL-6) levels in patients with gastric cancer (GC) among Asian populations. The paper is well written but there are some points to be clarified.

Major comments

1: It is unclear the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The authors need to show the details of the inclusion and exclusion criteria of the present study.

2: Why the authors only focused the IL-6 to evaluate the influence of LAG and open OG. Is IL-6 optimal marker to evaluate the surgical stress? More other cytokines and hormones, such as IL-1, TNF, IFN-c, catecholamine, and corticosteroids, also are related to surgical stress. How about were these cytokines or hormones?

3: Was the IL-6 measured same points? If not, it is possible that the level of surgical stress was not accurately evaluated.

4: The authors should show the patients background. IL-6 might be affected the patients background.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.