Reviewer's report

Title: Urinary N1, N12-diacetylspermine predicts tumor invasiveness in patients with clinical Stage IA non-small cell lung cancer

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Reviewer: Masaki Anraku

Reviewer's report:

Takahashi et al. reported a new urinary marker for "invasive non-small cell lung cancer." The results and the discussions are clearly presented.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. In the abstract, TDR should be spelled out.

2. In a paragraph titled "Measurement of tumor disappearance rate on chest computed tomography (p12, line 1-5)," please clarify TDR or urinary DiAcSpm to be predictive for what?

3. The sentence (p17, line 2-4; When the two factors were..) in the discussion should goes to the result section.

Discretionary Revisions
1. The authors consistently analyzed the levels of urinary DiAcSpm by dichotomisation (i.e., high vs. low in Table 2) rather than using absolute values. They may want to analyze the urinary DiAcSpm values and other parameters by applying the Pearson's correlation test (CEA, tumor size as continuous variables), or by t-test (N0 vs 1-2, vasc invasion pos vs. neg, ly invasion pos vs. neg, as categorical variables) if the urinary values shows a statistical normal distribution.

2. The authors may want to add figures for showing distributions of the absolute values of the urinary DiAcSpm by tumor size, histology, etc. if they are informative (e.g., box-plot figures).

Level of interest: An article of importance 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 declare that I have no competing interests.