Reviewer’s report

Title: The pretreatment albumin to globulin ratio predicts chemotherapeutic outcomes in patients with unresectable metastatic colorectal cancer

Version: 3
Date: 17 February 2015

Reviewer: Yasunaru Sakuma

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. Patients characteristics should be more detail, including BMI, Performance status, etc. which affect the chemotherapy regimens.
  2. How about the laboratory data like as Cholinesterase, Cholesterol, etc. (transferrin, pre-albumin)? These are also convenient makers of the patient status. We also want to know the difference of neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ration in this study which authors described previously.
  3. This study is small size, but the number of first-line chemotherapy including molecular targeted therapy should be mentioned in each groups (AGR high and Low). The average relative dose intensity in each group also compared if you want to conclude the High AGR is better survival.
  4. Following the authors hypothesis, the cytokine status should be analyzed if possible.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  1. This AGR seem to become good marker to do normalization. However, it is unclear how we should manage for the patients less than 1.25.
  2. The patients should not have bowel obstruction, anemia, and other complication before chemotherapy in this study. It should be clearly mentioned in this manuscript.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
none