Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Minoru Fukuchi

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This original manuscript presents that the pretreatment albumin to globulin ratio (AGR) is a useful prognostic marker in patients with unresectable or metastatic colorectal cancer (CRC) who receive palliative chemotherapy and that its low group was poor for progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) by univariate analysis.

Although the study was well designed and the results were evaluated, there are points as described below to be clarified.

Major revision

1. In Introduction, makers of the systemic inflammatory response, such as neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR), C-reactive protein (CRP) level and Glasgow prognostic score (GPS), have been investigated as prognostic factors in various type of cancers. However, because these markers have been well evaluated only in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (CRC), it may be enough for these comment to describe focused on CRC patients.

2. It is desirable for the marker to be evaluated for more than 100 metastatic CRC patients, referred to previous studies. Otherwise, it is preferable for the marker to be an independent factor by multivariate analysis for PSF or OS, adding to other useful factors.

3. Nevertheless, AGR is more useful than NLR, CRP or GPS in patients with metastatic CRC patients?

4. Although the cut-off value of AGR was set as median, it is possible for this value to be set according to ROC curve?

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.