Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic significance of Epstein-Barr virus infection in gastric cancer: a meta-analysis

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Reviewer: Hironori Yoshiyama

Reviewer's report:

Comments (Major revision)

In this manuscript, Liu X et al. investigated the effect of EBV infection on survival of patients who are suffered from gastric cancer. The manuscript is written clearly using understandable English. And the methods and results seem to be appropriate and draw convincing results for readers. However, the conclusion that the presence of EBV has a favorable impact on gastric cancer patient’s survival" has been reported by others. Thus, the reviewer awaits for novel information for treatment of patients with EBV-associated gastric cancer. Because of this, the reviewer rated it as requiring major revisions.

Major comment

The authors conducted a meta-analysis to assess the prognostic significance of EBV infection in gastric cancer and found that EBV presence has a favorable impact on Asian GC patient’s survival. However, the protective role of EBV infection European and American patients could not be observed (on line 253 and 254 at page 12). The authors had better discuss how come such a difference between Asian and Western countries. Probably, there must be difference in the way of diagnosis and treatment between Asian and Western countries.

Minor comment

On line 75, 76, and 77 at page 4, the author used words, such as “some”, “inconsistent”, and “no definitive” These words must substitute by more descriptive words. Please describe what is clearly understood for the prognosis of EBV-associated gastric cancer and what is still unclear and should be dissolved. By doing so, readers can delve deeper into the problems in the research on EBV-associated gastric cancer.