Reviewer’s report

Title: Difficulty of predicting the presence of lymph node metastases in patients with clinical early stage gastric cancer: A case control study.

Version: 0 Date: 18 Sep 2015

Reviewer: Ya-Wen Wang

Reviewer’s report:

Masatoshi et al performed a case control study to investigate the discrepancies between preoperative and postoperative values in predicting LNM for cEGC. The authors found obvious discrepancies between preoperative and postoperative values and suggest the surgeons should be aware of limitations in preoperative predictions of LNM. This manuscript did bring valuable knowledge for surgeons in clinical practice. Design and presentation is clearly and properly. Although the present study has several limitations, as indicated by the authors in the discussion section, I suggest the manuscript may be acceptable after minor revisions.

1. All the abbreviations include, but are not limited to, "AGC"," NCT", should be added in the List of Abbreviations, for the convenience of readers.

2. In the "ROC Curves using Independent Predictive Factors" section, how did the authors construct ROC curves using postoperative and preoperative independent predictive factors? Did you integrate the independent predictive factors (more than one variable) into single variable, using certain formula or model? Please describe the construction process in more detail.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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