

Reviewer 1

The authors collected abundant clinical data to explore the diagnostic role of tumor markers of CEA, CA199 and CA724 in gastric cancer and their relationship with clinical prognosis. After reasonable setting groups of gastric cancer and control, the authors showed that the serum levels of CEA, CA199 and CA724 in gastric cancer group were significantly higher than those in control group ($P < 0.05$). The authors also found that the serum CEA, CA199 and CA724 expression levels in gastric cancer patients increased significantly with the increase of TNM stage, and the differences between groups were statistically significant ($P < 0.05$). In short, the topic of this manuscript is timely and interesting. The authors have organized the manuscript rationally, with good methodology and well-written English. However, some minor editing needs to be done before publication: 1. In this study, the authors said that gastric cancer usually develops insidiously without any specific symptoms in the early stages. So, with the help of tumor markers CEA, CA199 and CA724, how likely is the tumor to be diagnosed early? 2. The authors should provide appropriate ethical statement in this manuscript.

1. Response: Thank you for your advice. Generally, gastric cancer often lacks obvious symptoms in the early stages, making early diagnosis difficult. Tumor markers such as CEA, CA199, and CA724 are methods of diagnosing cancer by detecting specific molecules in the blood. However, relying solely on tumor markers is insufficient for confirming or ruling out early gastric cancer. In general, individuals at high risk of gastric cancer should undergo comprehensive evaluations, including clinical symptoms, physical examinations, endoscopic examinations, and tissue biopsies, to improve the accuracy and sensitivity of early diagnosis.

2. Response: Thank you for your advice. We have added an ethical statement to the manuscript. This study has obtained approval from the Ethics Committee of the First People's Hospital of Lianyungang, Lianyungang City, Jiangsu Province, and has been

conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the Helsinki Declaration and Good Clinical Practice guidelines. All patient information are strictly confidential, so the informed consent was waived by the Ethics Committee.

Reviewer 2

Generally, gastric cancer (GC) is a common malignant tumor of the digestive system originating from gastric epithelial cells, which lacks effective early diagnostic method. To address this challenge, in this study, the authors aimed at investigating the diagnostic value of tumor markers CEA, CA199 and CA724 in gastric cancer. The authors used primary clinical data, tumor marker detection, and statistical analysis to verify their hypothesis. The results showed that compared with healthy people, GC patients showed higher level of CEA, CA199 and CA724 in serum. Also, the expression levels of various indicators raised significantly with the increase of TNM stage. So, in my opinion, this paper is well-written. The experimental group setting is reasonable, and the results reflects the conclusion as well. I recommend its acceptance after the minor revision. The detailed comments are: 1) In Table 1, the authors showed the smoking and alcohol history of the patients and healthy people. Since GC is a common malignant tumor of the digestive system, why not giving more information of the patients and healthy people on their dietary habit? 2) There are several grammar and typo errors that need to be corrected. For example, the sentence "The positive rates of CEA, CA199 and CA724 in stage I, II, III and IV of gastric cancer were 89.66%, 93.10%, 98.85% and 100.00%, respectively, which were higher than those in CEA, CA199 and CA724" is somehow confusing. And in the sentence "and the expression levels of various indicators rised significantly with the increase of TNM stage", rised should be rose or raised.

1. Response: Thank you very much for your suggestion. We primarily focused on the smoking and alcohol history of the patients and healthy controls, possibly because

smoking and alcohol consumption are closely associated with the development of gastric cancer. Although smoking and alcohol consumption have been identified as risk factors, dietary factors such as high salt intake, inadequate intake of fruits and vegetables, and consumption of processed and red meats are also associated with an increased risk of gastric cancer. It is possible that due to the significant impact of smoking and alcohol on gastric cancer risk, we focused on the smoking and alcohol history. However, in future studies, considering the inclusion of dietary information would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the disease.

2. Response: Thank you very much for your suggestion. We have corrected the grammar.