

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

**Manuscript NO:** 68486

**Title:** Risk factors for occult metastasis detected by inflammation-based prognostic scores and tumor markers in patients with biliary tract cancer

**Reviewer's code:** 05947685

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Lecturer

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Thailand

**Author's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-05-25

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-06-01 15:52

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-06-05 20:46

**Review time:** 4 Days and 4 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

In this manuscript, the authors explored some of the risk factors that might be associated with occult metastasis of biliary tract cancer. The scientific contents are sound and merit. The article is generally well written and interesting. However, the authors need to address some points to improve the clarity and quality of manuscript as described below.

1. The grouping of biliary tract cancer in this manuscript included a large group of diverse cancers (cholangiocarcinoma, gallbladder cancer, and cancer of papilla of Vater). These cancers are reported with having different etiologies, aggressive and progressive phenotypes, and therapeutic responses. The sensitivity analysis by sub-grouping of them may provide more sensitivity and reliability of the predictive factors (as they were shown in the current version that even specificity is high, but the sensitivity of each factor is particular low). The subgroup analysis for survival time and levels of these biomarker should be also provided. 2. It is not clear whether this paper suggests to use each biomarker individually or in combination. In Table 4, it shows the estimate of reduction rate for EL for each biomarker. However, the authors did not mention whether these factors were elevated in the same patients or different patients. What are the suggestions if all or just some of these makers were elevated? A discussion on this issue should be added. 3. The authors should clarify the meaning and the suggestion of using estimate of reduction rate in Table 4. How valid of these data should be given in details and references of the calculation should be given (or provide more rationale if this is originally proposed by this paper). 4. There are some minor grammatical errors, especially the subject-verb form agreement. Please carefully check throughout the manuscript.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Clinical Cases

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**Title:** Risk factors for occult metastasis detected by inflammation-based prognostic scores and tumor markers in patients with biliary tract cancer

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**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Doctor, Lecturer

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Thailand

**Author's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-05-25

**Reviewer chosen by:** Man Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-08-11 13:07

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-08-12 02:13

**Review time:** 13 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Thank you for your revision. The current version of manuscript has been much improved and all of questions from this reviewers are adequately addressed. There is no more concerns from this reviewer.