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## ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 31902

**Title:** CXCR7/CXCL12 axis is involved in lymph node and liver metastasis of gastric carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 00502831

**Reviewer's country:** Japan

**Science editor:** Ze-Mao Gong

**Date sent for review:** 2016-12-16 18:31

**Date reviewed:** 2016-12-19 10:59

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors reported that CXCR7/CXCL12 axis could play an important role in cell metastasis in gastric carcinoma. They concluded that the CXCR7/CXCL12 axis was involved in the lymph node metastasis and liver of gastric cancer. This study was interesting and excellent, and this article was well written. I have some comments as bellow. #1. This article was described about CXCR7/CXCL12 axis. But in the Aim of Abstract, the authors wrote CXCL12/CXCR7 axis. #2. In "The Effect of CXCR7 Overexpression and Silencing on the Invasion Ability of SGC-7901 Cells In Vitro" of Results, the authors reported that "As shown in Fig.5A and 5B, SGC-7901 cells spontaneously invaded through artificial basement membrane in the absence of SDF-1" but Fig. 5 was results of Western blot assay. Moreover, the authors described "we found that CXCL12 induced a significant increase of cancer cell invasion through Matrigel, overexpressing CXCR7 cells had displayed decreased invasive ability compared with the control cells and Vector cells" but overexpressing CXCR7 cells had displayed increased invasive ability compared with the control cells and Vector cells in Figure. #3. There is no legends of figures 7,8. #4. In Discussion, the authors



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should change small letter to capital letter of first characters of many sentences. #5. The authors described "CXCR7 overexpression in primary gastric cancers might be an independent risk factor for lymph node and liver metastasis." However the authors did not perform multivariate analysis in this article.



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**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**ESPS manuscript NO:** 31902

**Title:** CXCR7/CXCL12 axis is involved in lymph node and liver metastasis of gastric carcinoma

**Reviewer's code:** 00502797

**Reviewer's country:** Greece

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CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		BPG Search:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	

### COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Points of criticism: 1. The authors performed a retrospective analysis, a fact that weakens the results and conclusions of the study. 2. All patients included in the study did not receive any pre-operative chemotherapy. According to the existing guidelines patients with gastric cancer tumors > T3 or any N should receive neoadjuvant treatment. So the expression of CXCL12/CXCR7 in the tissue and in lymphnodes could be impaired. 3. It is not clear in the manuscript whether the liver tissues arise from patients with gastric cancer liver metastases or not. 4. The manuscript needs thorough linguistic improvement.