

Answering reviewers

Dear Authors, The manuscript "PD-L1 expression and its prognostic role in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma" of Ryul Kim and coauthors consists of ? Abstract ? Keywords ? Introduction ? Materials and Methods ? Results ? Discussion and ? Conclusion There are cited 31 literary sources - the most modern of the last five years. The article focuses on the role of PD-L1 and another two markers, the authors are looking for new and different correlations. The study included 200 patients with ESCC who underwent radical esophagectomy with standard lymphadenectomy, and then tissue microarrays were constructed by collecting tissue cores from surgical specimens, and immunostained with antibodies directed against PD-L1, p16, and c-Met. We see well described IHC methods and good statistic analysis . The results though most without statistical reliability are informative. At the end the authors concluded that: PD-L1 expression is positively correlated with c-Met expression in ESCC. PD-L1 may play a critical role in distant failure and progression of ESCC. The article was written in good English. Manuscript is illustrated with photos with good quality and is complemented with survival figures and tables. **In conclusion I recommend manuscript to be published without any specific comments!**

➔ **Thanks for your consideration and precious comments!**