Letter to the editor Identification of blood biomarkers: gastric cancer



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Dear Editor:

We have read with great interest the article published by Gomez *et al.* (1), which reports the identification of blood biomarkers that allow detecting different stages of gastric cancer development. It reports that there are 48 genes that allow differentiating patients with chronic gastritis from patients with gastric cancer. Likewise, it describes 14 genes that differentiate diffuse cancer pathologies from intestinal pathologies, as well as a group of 48 genes that distinguish chronic gastritis from intestinal metaplasia in the patients evaluated.

However, we would like to know why the genes that allow distinguishing such pathologies could not be identified. The study states that the extracted RNA was evaluated in the latest whole-genome microarray (2). Said technique can identify which genes have altered gene expression in tested patients. Nevertheless, it is not clear why these genes are not mentioned.

This becomes critical in a scenario where publications evaluating biomarkers for gastric cancer in Latin American population are limited. The identification of the genes found could lead to efforts by the scientific community to continue conducting studies to understand the development of gastric cancer in this population. For example, a recent study found that some polymorphisms of interleukins IL-10 and IL-4 could be associated with gastric cancer in Colombian population (3).

That study also presents a significant finding for the detection of pre-malignant lesions and the diagnosis of gastric cancer. However, we cannot give continuity to the results of the work without this valuable information.

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Conflict of interest

None declared by the authors.



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