

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

The aim to write a comprehensive guide for GC clinicians on how to assess tissue PD-L1 expression and make subsequent treatment decisions is a good idea. However, in my impression, the currently submitted review lacks the required focus on a specific storyline, and the chapters are aligned and written too unstructured without a particular audience in mind. I do not think GC physicians would significantly benefit from the review in its current form.

In general:

I recommend reviewing the entire manuscript in order to deliver a more comprehensive and structured text focussing on the one important subject described in the title (PD-L1 in GC). And please make sure to let the manuscript be proofread by a native English-speaking professional to make sure a smooth flow with easy-to-read sentence structure and grammar.

In particular:

- citations are missing at lines 57, 59, 65, 70, 72, 99, 103, 106, 112, 115, 130, 139, 143, 164, 169, 172, 180, 182, 184, 200, 212, 214, 340, 377, 449, 455, 464, 496, 503 (the ones I noticed)

We have addressed the following missing citations in the mentioned lines

57 – We have inserted the reference

59 – In our opinion, this part should not be referenced

65 – We have inserted the reference

70 – We have inserted the reference

72 – In our opinion, this part should not be referenced

99 – We have inserted the reference

103 – We have inserted the reference

106 – We have inserted the reference

112 – We have inserted the reference

115 – Already cited in the text

130 – This line regards the title of the figure and, in our opinion, should not have a reference

139 – Already cited at the end of the sentence

143 – Already cited at the end of the sentence

164 – Already cited at the end of the sentence

169 – Already cited at the end of the paragraph

172 – Already cited at the end of the paragraph

180 – Already cited in the sentence below

184 – Already cited in the sentence below

200 – We have inserted the reference

212 – Already cited in the sentence below

214 – Already cited in the sentence below

340 – Already cited at the end of the paragraph

377 – Citations mentioned in table 2, however they were also added to the text body

449 – Already cited at the end of the paragraph

455 – Already cited at the end of the paragraph

464 – Already cited at the end of the paragraph

496 – Already cited at the end of the paragraph

503 – Already cited at the end of the paragraph

- What time frame was your literature search focussed on?

That was cited in Table 1

- line 98: explain the costimulation in more detail, mention CD28

We believe this is not the scope of our review article

- Fig 1+2.: what software was the figure generated with?

We have used licensed Biorender

- line 138: CAFs are the dominant NON-CANCEROUS cell type

We have corrected it accordingly

- Chapter "CAFs": what's the relevance of these cells in terms of PD-L1/PD1?

We have added a study regarding it.

- Chapter "Endothelial cells": what's the relevance of these cells in terms of PD-L1/PD1?

We have added a study regarding it.

- Chapter "Macrophages": what's the relevance of these cells in terms of PD-L1/PD1?

We have added some sentences and references about it.

- MDSCs play a crucial role in the immune environment of GC (or almost any cancer) and this chapter requires far more attention, also in the context of PD-L1!

We have added some sentences and references about it.

- line 207: NK cells do not belong to the adaptive immune cells nor to lymphocytes.

We have corrected it accordingly.

- line 212: be more precise in explaining the Jak-Stat pathway

We have added a brief sentence about it. We don't feel that going into further details would be the scope of this manuscript.

- Chapter "PD-L1 testing in GC": no mention of radiation or chemotherapy-induced PD-L1 expression? What relevance does this play in treatment?

By reading this chapter carefully, it is possible to see that we have addressed systemic treatment induced changes in PD-L1 expression.

- Chapter "Molecular subgroups of GC, TMB and their relationship with PD-L1 expression": make clear the difference between TMB and MSI. It's not well described in your text.

We have added a paragraph explaining it.

In my impression, this review is publishable but requires major revision in language, the flow of text, and the scientific information provided. It lacks scientific detail, relevance to the chosen subject, and references to current literature.

Reviewer B

The manuscript is a well written, up-to-date review on PD-L1 and immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy in gastric cancer. There is nothing missing.

Thank you!

Reviewer C

1. I think it should be cited that the attached study is ongoing for MSI-H gastric cancer.
<https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6694/13/4/805>

2. I think it would be better to indicate whether the evaluation of PD-L1 was TPS or CPS in Table.2.

We have indicated that accordingly. Thank you.

3. Since table.2 on p18 is not displayed neatly, please correct it.

We have corrected it

Although this paper is well-written, there are still some shortcomings.