Reviewer’s report

Title: Biological Characteristics and Treatment Outcomes of Metastatic or Recurrent Neuroendocrine Tumors: Tumor Grade and Metastatic Site is Important for Treatment Strategy.

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Reviewer: Aaron R Sasson

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The manuscript by Kim et al is a retrospective review of 103 patients with neuroendocrine tumors of a wide variety of sites, but mostly from the gastrointestinal tract. They studied various prognostic factors as well as natural history and treatment of metastatic neuroendocrine tumors. They found, as did other studies, that grade is the most important factor for determining the biology of these tumors, as is the impact of having metastatic disease to the liver. In the treatment of metastatic disease, the authors’ utilized a wide variety of treatment options, making it difficult to obtain conclusions based on the optimal treatment modality. However, due to the nature of this disease, this is not uncommon in many publications. I thought the manuscript was well written and worthy of publication.

The only concern I had was on in the discussion session on page 16, line number 4. The authors incorrectly report the favorable use of somatostatin analogues in well-differentiated gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors, that is incorrect. The study cited only used patients with mid gut neuroendocrine tumors and excluded pancreatic tumors. This was the only point that required a revision.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'