Reviewer's report

Title: Early versus deferred androgen suppression therapy for patients with lymph node-positive prostate cancer after local therapy with curative intent: a systematic review

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Reviewer: Shiro Hinotsu

Reviewer's report:

This study is to perform a systematic review for patients with lymph node positive prostate cancer after local therapy.

Major comments.

1. There are little number of the studies and patients included this systematic review. Therefore, I thing it is difficult to determine the treatment whether early or deferred hormone treatment for the patients with lymph node positive prostate cancer after local therapy.

2. Concerning adverse events, there was only one study for this study. So, authors could not perform calculation of meta-analysis. It was not “systematic” review.

3. Even though authors described in the limitation, the diagnostic procedure of lymph-node metastasis was different using lymphadectomy and imaging. I do not think it is appropriate to merge these studies. Various outcomes can calculate heterogeneity and adjustment of the heterogeneity is possible using random effect model. However, the heterogeneity of study design and accuracy of the diagnosis for lymph-node metastasis were not able to adjust using statistical model. Therefore, from the results and conclusion of this manuscript, urologists would not change their treatment choice for the patients with lymph-node positive prostate cancer after local therapy.

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.