Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic significance of peripheral monocyte count in patients with extranodal natural killer/T-cell lymphoma

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Reviewer: Gisele Colleoni

Reviewer's report:

In this retrospective study, Li et al. evaluated the role of peripheral blood monocyte count as a prognostic marker in extranodal natural killer/T-cell lymphoma, a common type of NHL in Asia. Using a ratio between absolute monocyte count and absolute lymphocyte count at diagnosis - respectively surrogate markers of tumor microenvironment and host immunity - they could refine the International Prognostic Index (IPI) for this type of NHL, frequently classified as IPI low-risk.

Minor essential revisions

The authors wisely defend that this model has to be applied in independent cohorts. However, some discussion should be added about how this new, simple and worldwide feasible score could change current treatment approach of this tumor, including their opinion (based on review of the literature) if there is early indication of high-dose chemotherapy followed by autologous stem cell transplant in high-risk cases.

Running title: Peripheral monocytes in extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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