Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Otavio CG Baiocchi

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In this study "Prognostic significance of peripheral monocyte count in patients with extranodal natural killer/T-cell lymphoma" the authors showed that absolute monocyte count (AMC) at diagnosis is an effective predictor of survival in extranodal natural killer/T-cell lymphoma patients. Additionally, the AMC/ALC prognostic index can offer a better risk stratification for patients with ENKL. This manuscript provides a valuable contribution towards identifying prognostic and predictive markers for patients with ENKL. Comments:

Minor essential revisions:

1- Methods: The authors stated that written informed consent was obtained from all patients before treatment. This is a retrospective study and, probably, written informed consent was not obtained from all patients prior entering this study. The authors should address this topic more clearly.

2- Results:

• A more detailed explanation of AMC discriminative cut-points (ROC curve analysis) should be provided.

• The associations between patient’s clinical characteristics (age, B symptoms, LDH, stage, etc…) and AMC and AMC/ALC prognostic index are lacking in the manuscript. It would be very interesting to see these correlations in the manuscript.

• A more detailed explanation of ALC discriminative cut-points (1.10 x 10^9/L) should be provided.

• All tables (specially Table 2 and 3) and all figures must be redone in order to make them more self-explanatory. Example: How many patients were analyzed in each figure? Define group 1, 2 and 3 in each figure.

3- Discussion:

• Please revise all references: Example: in the text ...“Evidence that AMC is an adverse prognostic factor in NHL was recently provided by Wilcox et al. in patients with DLBCL and FL [25,26,36]”... Is reference 36 correctly placed?

• The authors must clearly state limitations of this manuscript. Example: the limitations and pitfalls of retrospective studies.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'