Reviewer’s report

Title: Prediction of Metachronous Multiple Primary Cancers Following the Curative Resection of Gastric Cancer

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Reviewer: Gian Luca Baiocchi

Reviewer’s report:

The Authors focus their analysis on a large group of patients undergoing instrumental follow-up after radical gastrectomy for cancer. With the aim to analyze the incidence and outcome of other site tumors. The data set is homogenous, the reported clinical and pathological features are generally in agreement with those of previous studies, the paper is well written, statistical analysis is simple and correct and the study design (Retrospective monocentric series) has no particular criticism to be made.

Moreover, the Authors should be complimented for their impressive series with intensive follow-up (a very huge amount of work!).

However, I wonder that this beautiful paper doesn’t reach the more intuitive consequences: if the likelihood of having a second cancer is 2.3%, the follow-up makes no sense, being the global incidence of cancer diagnosis higher in the general population, if we theoretically could give to all the people the same number and frequency of examinations. This point is not discussed; so, I suggest to the Authors to search for some data of screening programs results and compare it to the incidence of 2.3% they report. In this context, it is very important for the take-to-home message that the schedule of follow-up is carefully reported.

I also would like to invite the Authors to read (and eventually cite) the web round table about the sense of follow-up after gastrectomy in the 10IGCC website.

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