Reviewer’s report

Title: Incidence and Outcome for Patients with Occult Lymph Node Involvement in T1 and T2 Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A prospective study

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Reviewer: Chaosu Hu

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This is an interesting topic on the dealing of the occult lymph node involvement in T1 and T2 oral squamous cell carcinoma. But there were some dilemma in the paper.

1. In the Staging part:
   “Lymph nodes of more than 1 cm with a rounded configuration were regarded as probably involved by imaging criteria. “
   Was this diagnostic standard too simple?

2. In the
   Although the rests of univariate log-rank test show gender had no impact on the prognosis of the patients, male and female has different prognosis as previous data, since the risk factors for them might be different. It is better to put gender into the multivariable analysis.

3. The time to recurrence 25.63±24.6 months in cases with N1 disease. Could you give the details of the recurrence number and recurrence time.

So the decision for this research is “resubmit”.

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