Reviewer’s report

Title: The clinical features and treatment modality of esophageal neuroendocrine tumors: nationwide multicenter study in Korea

Version: Date: 22 February 2014

Reviewer: Castigliano Bhamidipati

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Editor:

Thank you for this opportunity to review the enclosed manuscript. The authors have attempted to synthesize clinically, biologically, and therapeutically meaningful information from 26 cases collected over a decade in Korea related to esophageal neuroendocrine tumors (NET). While the authors are to be commended on their effort, this manuscript has significant flaws that warrant review.

As such, there are only 26 cases of esophageal NETs that the authors attempt to discuss. There are several typographic, grammar, and linguistic errors throughout the manuscript. This Korea based manuscript might have limited applicability to the Western reader. There are several missing data among various aspects of the series that precludes generalizable inference and statistical computation. The adjuvant chemotherapy administered across patients was admittedly varied and therefore is neither clinically discernable nor meaningful. Immunostaining technique and tissue handling is not discussed; the variation in primary anti-body binding affinity, the secondary anti-body processing, and the differences in the various stains used are all additional variants to the interpretation of these data.

Insomuch as that this manuscript is a collection of 26 different cases over a decade in a region that employed clinically disparate management algorithms for biologically different tumors, that resulted in unique treatment strategies yielding the said results — therefore attempting to draw any sort of meaningful clinical information from these collective cases is challenging.

I wish the authors the very best, but fall short of recommending their manuscript for publication.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.