Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of DNA ploidy in relation with established prognostic factors in patients with locally advanced (Unresectable) or metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma: A retrospective analysis

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Reviewer: Nikolas Hendrik Stoecklein

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Tsavaris and colleagues evaluated in their interesting study the prognostic influence of ploidy in unresectable advanced pancreatic cancer. Ploidy levels were evaluated by cytometry of feulgen stained nuclei. The ploidy results were related to established prognostic factors and wide range of factors that were published previously by this group. With more than 220 patients analyzed, they present an enormous data set. In my view, revealing an influence of ploidy in the advanced stage pancreatic cancers is an interesting point and merits publication.

Minor Essential Revisions

- The authors should clarify how they determined their values to group the different ploidy levels.

- Not many papers are published on ploidy and pancreatic cancer. Therefore I would suggest including the publication from my group on this topic into the discussion. Especially, since we have observed quite similar results. In contrast to the current study, we investigated R0 resected patients with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma who underwent surgery with curative intention (stoecklein et al, J Clin Oncol 22:4737-4745).

- Were all tumors classified as ductal adenocarcinomas? Please comment.

Discretionary Revisions

- It would strengthen the paper, if more original data from the ploidy screen would be shown. E.g. a photographs from nuclei falling into the <2.2 group vs. 3.6+ group.

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

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