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: Sven A Lang

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The manuscript entitled „Evaluation of DNA ploidy in relation with established prognostic factors in patients with locally advanced (Unresectable) or metastatic pancreatic adenocarcinoma: A retrospective analysis” by Tsavaris et al. investigates the impact of ploidy on survival of patients with advanced pancreatic cancer disease. The authors examine a cohort of 226 patients from 5 institutes with histologically proven pancreatic adenocarcinoma. DNA ploidy was determined using nuclei of Feulgen-stained cells and an eclipse microscope at x200 magnification. The authors found the absence of ploidy to be a major determinant of survival (except of surgery and chemotherapy).

In general, the study is well written and performed with appropriate methods. However, to this reviewer the novelty of ploidy in pancreatic cancer specimen is unclear. The authors themselves state that there are several reports on this issue. Although results are probably not clear in some studies the overwhelming consent from most of them is that higher DNA content and ploidy, respectively, is associated with bad prognosis in patients with pancreatic adenocarcinoma. Therefore, I would highly recommend the authors to highlight their findings and point out what is the novelty of their study. This is the reason why I would suggest this paper for major revisions.

Minor points:
1. It would be nice to show a picture from microscopic analysis as example of ploidy in pancreatic cancer specimen.
2. Authors should provide figure legends since this would help to clarify their results.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declared that I have no competing interest.