Reviewer’s report

Title: Predicting Prognostics in Hepatocellular Carcinoma after Curative Surgery with Common Clinicopathologic Parameters

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Reviewer: Tim Greten

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript by Hao et al describes a new scoring system to predict survival in patients with HCC after survival. The study has a number of major flaws:

1. Page 2, line 1: Surgical resection is not the only standard curative treatment option for patients with HCC as suggested by the authors. RFTA is also considered as a curative therapy.
2. How were the patients chosen for his study? Are these all patients treated at the authors institution?
3. Page 3, line 4: The reference is wrong. The referenced paper discusses patients after ablative therapy!
4. The authors missed a number of very relevant studies in the field:
   i. Llovet et al. 1999 describes portal hypertension and bilirubins as predictors for survival after surgical resection
   ii. Wayne et al, 2002 describe the Child-Pugh score and the tumor differentiation as predictive factors for survival after surgical resection
   iii. Vauthey et al. 2002, describe macroscopic and microscopic vascular invasion, number of tumors and fibrosis as potential factors for survival after surgical resection
   How do these studies differ from the one presented here?
5. There has been outstanding study by Hoshida et al in 2008 in the NEJM, which should be discussed in this context.
6. How did the authors define moderate smoking/drinking?
7. Patients with more than 6 nodules are not considered to be eligible for resection. These papers should be treated with TACE and should therefore not be included in this study.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests