Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluation of Survival in Patients after Pancreatic Head Resection for Ductal Adenocarcinoma

Version: 2 Date: 12 February 2013

Reviewer: Mechteld de Jong

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Evaluation of Survival in Patients after Pancreatic Head Resection for Ductal Adenocarcinoma

Thank you very much for your revised manuscript. The paper has indeed improved, but there are a number of important points that you must attend:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. While the issue regarding the role of texture of the pancreas is well taken care of in the discussion, is it still mentioned in the abstract. Please revise the abstract accordingly.

Minor Essential Revisions

2. The authors have satisfactory responded to the comments. However, table 6 still seems to be inconveniently arranged in my opinion. In the methods it states that a Cox regressions analysis is used; however the table only shows the OR (instead of the HR). If the log rank test is used, that change the methods section accordingly. Furthermore, presenting the OR only does not take time into account, which, in my opinion, is an important factor in analyzing survival.

3. Moreover, in the same table, there are no clear categories presented regarding tumor grading – which tumor grade is associated with the worst outcome? Moreover, is the CEA and CA19-9 used as a continuous variable (i.e. per unit?)? Please, specify the characteristics for each variable in the table.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests