Reviewer's report

Title: Trends and results in treatment of gastric cancer over last two decades at single East European centre: a cohort study

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Reviewer: Yasuhiko Mohri

Reviewer's report:

Summary

While incidence rate of gastric cancer are declining, rate in Eastern Europe stay high. The authors sought to compare the clinical source and outcomes, such as postoperative complications, the length of hospital stay and mortality rate, over two distinctive time periods. Rate of postoperative complications was similar between two groups, but the rate of severe complication was significantly decreased in Group II compared with in Group I. Furthermore, the overall survival rate was improved in Group II compared with in Group I. However, the disease specific survival was not significantly different between two groups. The authors concluded that gastric cancer treatment results remain poor despite decreasing morbidity, shortening hospital stay and improved overall survival.

Major

Overall, this manuscript lacks adequate data analysis. Why the incidence of severe complication was decreased despite performing same perioperative care in two groups. Why the overall survival was improved in Group II? The authors need to analyze the factors affecting these results.

Minor

1. Why total gastrectomy was decreased in Group II compared with in Group I?
2. Why the frequency of early stage gastric cancer was increased in Group II?
3. Is there statistical difference in the overall survival between two groups? The authors need to show the p value (log rank test).
4. In the abstract, the authors demonstrated that disease specific survival was not significantly different between the two groups. However, the authors did not show in the manuscript.
5. How many patients were received adjuvant chemotherapy or chemoradiotherapy in each group?
6. The authors mentioned that multivariate analysis was performed to identify the prognostic factors. But they did not performed.
7. The survival rate of early stage gastric cancer is very low. The authors need to discuss that result compared with other data.
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