Reviewer’s report

Title: Neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio and platelet to lymphocyte ratio can predict the severity of gallstone pancreatitis

Version: 0 Date: 19 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Joachim Mertens

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript (BMGE-D-17-00463) examines the predictive value of neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio (NLR) and platelet to lymphocyte ratio (PLR) in acute pancreatitis (AP) of alcoholic or biliary origin.

The data of 243 patients enrolled in this study were collected prospectively in a tertiary center in Korea. NLR and PLR were compared to established AP severity scores and predictive lab values.

The topic of the present manuscript is interesting and novel as PLR has so far not been investigated as a predictive value in AP. Many of the currently available predictive scores in AP are cumbersome and of limited prognostic value. Therefore, an easy and reliable parameter is desirable.

The methodology seems straightforward albeit the number of included patients is rather small.

Analysis of NLR and PLR in alcoholic and biliary AP showed significance for severe courses of disease only in biliary AP but not in alcoholic. The significantly higher rate of cirrhotics in the alcoholic group and possible related thrombopenia may explain differences in the PLR in this group. This needs to be addressed in the discussion.

The resolution of figure 2 makes review almost impossible.

MAJOR COMMENTS:

1) The issue of liver disease related thrombopenia needs to be addressed in the discussion as this may influence PLR in the alcoholic AP group of patients.

MINOR COMMENTS:

Resolution of figure 2 is very low. Please review this figure
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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