Reviewer's report

Title: Low lymphocyte count and high monocyte count predicts poor prognosis of gastric cancer

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Reviewer: Theodoros Karantanos

Reviewer's report:
This is an interesting retrospective study evaluating the impact of absolute number of peripheral blood cells in the prognosis of patients with gastric cancer. The authors showed that high neutrophils, monocytes and platelets and low lymphocytes are associated with worse prognosis in gastric cancer focusing on overall survival. Absolute lymphocytes and monocytes are the only independent factors. Absolute numbers are more useful than rates and I would agree that these correlations are important.

I have only a few relatively minor points:

1) Did the authors do any correlation with other outcomes (i.e Progression free survival), this may be particularly interesting in these patients with early disease? There is evidence that lymphocytes contribute to better GI tumors control following surgery

2) It seems that the predictive role of the absolute number of PBCs is important for stages II/III but not stage I. The number of stage I patients is not different to the stage II patients so I am wondering what is the explanation of this phenomenon by the authors?

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?
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Unable to assess
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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