Reviewer’s report

Title: Indications for adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with AJCC stage IIa T3N0M0 and T1N2M0 gastric cancer—an east and west multicenter study

Version: 0 Date: 17 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Emanuele Lo Menzo

Reviewer's report:

I congratulate the authors for the manuscript entitled:" Indications for adjuvant chemotherapy in patients with AJCC (7th ed.) stage IIa T3N0M0 and T1N2M0 gastric cancer - an east and west, multicenter study"

In the manuscript the authors compare patients from the Surveillance, Epidemiology,and End Results(SEER) database and the databases from Fujian Medical University Union Hospital(FJUUH) and the Italian IMIGASTRIC center to determine the ideal role of adjuvant chemotherapy.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1- Your objective was to determine the ideal indications of adjuvant chemotherapy(AC) in patients with stage IIa gastric cancer (T3N0M0 and T1N2M0). However, I have concerns that this objective can be accomplished using epidemiological databases with several missing data points.
2- There is a big disparity between the AC group (Group C) (n = 287) and the non-AC group (Group N) (n = 1306). Can you please comment on the potential impact on you results?
3- Since in the Eastern countries AC is not recommended in T3N0M0 and T1N2M0, these patients treated with AC in the FJUUH database (198) might have had other reasons for having AC. Can you offer some potential explanations?
4- I believe it is necessary to mention as a limitation the fact that the variables not mentioned in the SEER database were not included in the analysis.
5- Do you have any information on the type of resection these patients had? That is a major variable missing in your study. Without this data, your conclusions might be skewed.

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.
No

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

No

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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