Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of overall survival on surgical resection versus transarterial chemoembolization with or without radiofrequency ablation in intermediate stage hepatocellular carcinoma: A propensity score matching analysis

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Reviewer: Quirino Lai

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- Comparison of overall survival on surgical resection versus transarterial chemoembolization with or without radiofrequency ablation in intermediate stage hepatocellular carcinoma: A propensity score matching analysis (BMGE-D-20-00078)

This is a retrospective study coming from Taiwan focused on the role of resection, TACE and TACE+RFA in the treatment of HCC patients with BCLC B status.

The study is of interest, investigating the beneficial effect of resection and multimodal TACE+RFA in the specific setting of BCLC-B cases. The PSM method further improved the quality of the study.

I have some comments:

1) In Results, the Authors must specify the different numerosities of the different groups selected using the PSMs. They did it when they compared resection and TACE alone, but they failed to do so for the other two PSMs.

2) Were the 140 cases selected comparing Resection vs. TACE+RFA the same of the selected patients in the comparison between Resection vs. TACE alone? Otherwise, Table 2 is not correct.

3) Was caliper width really 0.02? I suspect it was 0.2.

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?
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Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

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