Reviewer’s report

Title: Peripheral blood lymphocytes immunophenotyping predicts disease activity in clinically isolated syndrome patients

Version: 3  Date: 30 Jan 2017

Reviewer: Ming-Feng Liao

Reviewer's report:

I think the statistical analysis methods were better understood and more clarified after the author's explanations, and the discussion also became better. There are some further suggestions.

1. The author said "The ROC curves were constructed from ALL TIMES AT ONCE. As a predicted outcome we considered a relapse or disease progression, respectively that appeared in (and only in) ONE YEAR after the corresponding measurement. The threshold (cutoff point) gotten from ROC curve was used for all survival curve. As I understanding and author's replay, I think the ROC curve is gotten from the data AT ONE YEAR AFTER THE FIRST CLINICAL EVENT. I suggested the author can specify more detail in the statistical methods (ex: ROC curve to predict the clinical outcome AT ONE YEAR AFTER THE FIRST CLINICAL EVENT was constructed).

2. Did author use cutoff points get form ROC curve at different time points (ex: at base line or 6 months after the first clinical event) as threshold to drawn different survival curves?"

3. I also think the author may simplify the figure 1-4. The author may only keep survival curve gotten from 12M, and move other survival curve to supplement data. (In the figures of NK cells, the author may add survival curve gotten from 24 M and make some explanations).

4. It is also better to remove the vertical line and only keep horizontal line on the top and bottom of table 1 and 2 before publish. May see the table 1 of "Corrao et al. BMC Neurology (2017) 17:12 DOI 10.1186/s12883-017-0796-3" (PDF file).

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

Unable to assess
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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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