Reviewer's report

Title: Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Stage III Colon Cancer: Relative Dose Intensity and Survival among Veterans

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Reviewer: Aziz ZAANAN

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This study entitled « Adjuvant chemotherapy for stage III colon cancer: relative dose intensity and survival among veterans » retrospectively investigated the impact of the relative dose intensity (RDI) on overall survival (OS) and disease free survival (DFS) of 367 stage III colon cancer patients from VA medical centers.

The article is well written and data is presented in a well-balanced manner. However, some issues need to be remarked.

major revisions

1. DFS-3 year is considered as the standard endpoint used in most adjuvant trials involving colon cancer patients as is strongly correlated with long-term OS. However, in the multivariate analysis, authors showed that 5-year OS was associated to > 70% RDI, while this association was not statistically significant for 3-year DFS. How to explain the lack of significant association between RDI and 3-year DFS?

2. As FOLFOX is now the standard treatment for stage III colon cancer, it would be interesting to have the results concerning the impact of RDI according to the stratification analysis based on chemotherapy regimens.

3. Authors should correct the results mentioned in the abstract because of some different data between the abstract and the manuscript or the table 3 (example: results of the multivariate analysis for the 5-year OS concerning the HR of 5FU+oxaliplatin regimen or >70% RDI)

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'