Reviewer’s report

Title: The preoperative platelet-lymphocyte-ratio is superior to neutrophil lymphocyte ratio as a predictive factor in soft-tissue sarcoma

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Reviewer: Joanna Szkandera

Reviewer’s report:

It was a pleasure to review the manuscript "The preoperative platelet-lymphocyte-ratio is superior to neutrophil lymphocyte ratio as a predictive factor on soft-tissue sarcoma" for "BMC Cancer".

Que et al. present a nice analysis of the impact of preoperative platelet-lymphocyte-ratio and neutrophil-lymphocyte-ratio on disease-free-survival and overall survival outcomes in a series of 222 patients with soft tissue sarcoma that underwent radical resection and were followed at their institution.

This study is reasonable sized and contains interesting data, but bears some major problems.

1) This paper needs major English revisions!!! The authors switched between present tense and past tense. Furthermore, they used abbreviations that were explained first, e.g. DFS, and in the next sentence the abbreviation was written out in full. Due to language problems, some parts of the manuscript are confusing, e.g.:

Title: "The preoperative platelet-lymphocyte-ratio is superior to neutrophil lymphocyte ratio as a predictive factor on soft-tissue sarcoma" should be "The preoperative platelet-lymphocyte-ratio is superior to neutrophil-lymphocyte-ratio as a predictive factor on soft-tissue sarcoma"

Abstract, page 3, Methods, line 50: "Use Kaplan-Meier curves...." should be "Kaplan-Meier curves were used...."

Results, page 3, line 54: "As to multivariate analysis which included tumor site, AJCC stage, only high PLR was still identified..." shouldn’t it be “As to multivariate analysis, tumor site, AJCC and PLR were identified as...”?

line 60: “However, in multivariate analysis including tumor site, AJCC stage, only the PLR were...” shouldn’t it be “In multivariate analysis, tumor site, AJCC stage and PLR were also related to decreased DFS”?

Both mistakes should also be corrected in the results section, page 9, paragraph 2, e.g.: “As to multivariate analysis which included age, gender, tumor site, AJCC stage, adjuvant radiotherapy and PLR and NLR, PLR was still identified as independent prognostic factors of poor clinical outcome.” and “In addition, PLR was independently associated with DFS in multivariate analysis including age, gender, tumor site, AJCC stage, adjuvant radiotherapy and PLR and NLR.”
Background, page 4, line 79: “… with not adjuvant radiation…” should be “…without adjuvant radiation…”

page 5, line 99: “Raised platelet counts was indicated inferior survival….” should be “Raised platelet counts indicated inferior survival…”

line 109: “To date, PLR has been identified the prognosis in different cancers as a…” should be “To date, PLR has been identified as a prognostic factor in different cancers.”

page 6, line 112: “NLR has been considered the prognosis value in…” should be “NLR has been shown to have prognostic value in..”

Methods, Subjects, page 6, line 128: “Adjuvant radiotherapy was administered in 39 patients, and adjuvant radiotherapy treatment in 65 patients.- what is the difference between those two treatments??

line 129, “The follow-up examinations are provided…” should be “The follow-up examinations were provided…”

Statistical analysis, page 7, line 154: “…grade, adjuvant radiotherapy, AJCC stage on OS and DFS.” Should be “grade, adjuvant radiotherapy and AJCC stage on OS and DFS.”

Results, page 8, line 166: “…classified into different subtypes which are show in…” should be “…classified into different subtypes which were show in…”

page 9, line 179:” The reason that we exclude the factors of tumor grade and tumor size…” should be “The reason why factors such as tumor grade and tumor size were excluded…”

Discussion, page 11, line 227: “…from the platelets resulting to angiogenesis” should be “…from the platelets resulting in angiogenesis”

2) As tumor depth is a well known prognostic factor in soft tissue sarcomas, it should be added in Table 1 and included in the univariate analyses in Table 3 and 4.

3) In the introduction and at the end of the discussion, the authors state that there is no study regarding the significance of PLR in soft tissue sarcoma- The authors may wish to read and also discuss the following paper:Szkandera J, Gerger A, Liegl-Atzwanger B, Absenger G, Stotz M, et al. The lymphocyte/monocyte ratio predicts poor clinical outcome and improves the predictive accuracy in patients with soft tissue sarcomas. Int J Cancer. 2014 Jul 15;135(2):362-70. doi: 10.1002/ijc.28677.- in this study we also evaluated the prognostic significance of PLR on clinical outcome in soft tissue sarcoma patients and found statistically significant associations in univariate, but not multivariate analyses.

Minor revisions:

1) Please include the information on the duration of the follow-up.
2) HR and 95%CI should to be rounded to 2 decimal places.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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