Reviewer’s report

Title: A Modified TNM Staging System for Non-Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Based on Nomogram Analysis of SEER Database

Version: 0  Date: 17 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Ioannis Hatzaras

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written study where the authors have used the SEER database to identify the optimal grouping of T and N classifications into a staging system in terms of prognosis.

1. I am curious why the opted to use 5 staging groups, as opposed to 7 (per AJCC). They should elaborate on this in the methodology.

2. The follow up time is somewhat limited. They report 3 year survival, but in a disease with favorable 5 year prognosis. They should report this as a significant weakness, and perhaps employ a statistical modulation to address this.

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?
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 am able to assess the statistics
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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