Reviewer’s report

Title: High neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio confers poor prognosis in patients with small cell lung cancer

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Reviewer: Pablo Sanchez-Salcedo

Reviewer's report:

Liu and colleagues assess the relationship between NLR and PLR with small cell lung cancer prognosis. The topic, and the results are not novel, but I believe the results are suitable for an open access journal as BMC Cancer in order to nourish the already available data.

I have had some difficulties trying to understand what is written. I believe the written English should be revised. Simple mistakes as forgetting to leave a blank space between words can be acceptable, but not if they are present several times.

Concerns:

i. Correct the title: it says "high neutrophilto". Add a space before "to". There are

ii. Abstract: line 25. Don't understand what "cooking" stands for.

iii. Abstract: line 27. I would change smoking amount for smoking exposure.

iv. Abstract line 40. Phrase "High NLR and PLR are associated with poor survival". I think it is redundant, as you have already written in line 29: "Kaplan Meier analysis revealed … NLR and PLR confers poor prognosis". I think you can delete the former.

v. Introduction, line 17. Missing blank space between and_lactate.

vi. Results, line 52. It says "55 cases were at limited disease (LD) …". I would change it to "HAD limited disease", and "HAD extensive disease".

vii. Paragraph UNIVARIATE ANALYSES: don’t need to start Univariate or Multivariate with a capital letter, if it is not at the beginning of a sentence. Please change in the paragraph. Separate "analisewere incorporated" in the same paragraph.

viii. Results. I would not use the head UNIVARIATE ANALYSES because under that head, you are explaining both univariate and multivariate analyses. I would rather use "RISK ANALYSES".
ix. Discussion, second paragraph. I would place a full stop instead of comma after referring to (2,11,24). Same paragraph: "However, Wang and his colleagues' …". I would rephrase to: "however, in the study by Wang et. al, elevated NLR was an …, confirming our results."

x. Limitation section not properly addressed.

xi. I believe the explanation for acronyms used in tables should the placed in the footnote of each table they are being used or in the first table they are being used. You acronym explanations is at the end of Table 3, rather than in Table 2. If the instructions for authors for this journal states otherwise, then follow instructions.

xii. Why do you use Birkman index instead of pack years of smoking, when calculating smoking amount?? I believe the latter is more widely used.

xiii. You have inserted Table 4 twice (pages 21 and pages 22).

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

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
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