Reviewer's report

Title: An inflammation-based cumulative prognostic score system in patients with diffuse large B cell lymphoma in rituximab era

Version: 2 Date: 11 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Feng Gao

Reviewer's report:

In this paper, Sun and colleagues developed an inflammation based prognostic scoring system for DLBCL and identified 3 independent predictors including CRP, albumin, and Lymph:mono ratio. The authors did a great job in the revision to address comments raised by previous reviewers. In general, this is a well written manuscript. The materials are well organized. The statistical methods are properly used. The strategy for data analysis is clearly outlined and the results are interpreted properly. The limitation of this study is thoroughly discussed.

No major statistical concerns and just a few minor issues on result presentation:

Essential revisions:

1. Methods- Statistical analysis: the authors mentioned "survival event" was used for ROC analysis. It is unclear whether the event refer to death alone, or death/progression.

2. Results - patient characteristics: The number of events (death, progression) was not presented anywhere in the text or Tables.

3. Results - cut-off: Two outcomes (OS, PFS) were involved in this paper. It is unclear whether the resultant optimal cut-offs represent both outcomes

Optional revisions:

4. In addition to p-values, it is helpful to present summery statistics (e.g., C-statistics or concordance index, which is analogous to the AUC under binary data setting) for the overall predictive ability of the models.

5. It is understandable that it is hard to perform model-validation with an external data. However, an internal validation (10-fold cross validation, bootstrap re-sampling techniques, or calibration, etc.) will be helpful to understand the reliability of resultant models.
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:

Acceptable

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