Reviewer’s report

Title: Laparoscopy-Assisted Colectomy as an Oncologically Safe Alternative for Patients with Stage T4 Colon Cancer: A Propensity-Matched Cohort Study

Version: 0 Date: 16 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Mario Schootman

Reviewer's report:

The purpose of this study is to assess the effectiveness of laparoscopic surgery versus open surgery for T4 colon cancer. While the topic is important, there are several issues with the manuscript. First, a recent meta analysis (Dis Colon Rectum. 2017 Jan;60(1):116-125) published 5 studies on this same topic. It would be important to describe how this study goes beyond the meta analysis, which was not mentioned in the manuscript. Second, the propensity score was not described in enough detail to assure that this was done correctly. For example, there was no mention of if/how balance in the covariates was assessed, why these covariates were included, and what the caliper was for matching. Third, page 8 describes the outcomes of the converted groups. There are simply too few patients to make this meaningful. Fourth, there were 242 patients in the 2 groups, which is likely too few to be meaningful to examine disease-free survival. The 5 year DFS rates were 56.2% and 41.4% but this was not statistically different although this seems to be clinically important.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

No

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal