Reviewer's report

Title: Predictive value of dynamic change of haemoglobin levels during therapy on treatment outcomes in patients with Enneking stage IIB extremity osteosarcoma

Version: 0 Date: 22 Aug 2016

Reviewer: Winston Huh

Reviewer's report:

The authors describe their analysis of changing hemoglobin levels in their institutional cohort of extremity osteosarcoma patients. The objective was to determine if low or changing hemoglobin levels were a prognostic indicator for clinical outcome. While the premise of the study is interesting, there are still holes in the data that would strengthen the manuscript.

1. In the results, the authors describe that there was no overall survival difference between those patients with anemia versus the non-anemia group. However, there were differences in the subgroups of pretreatment, neoadjuvant and adjuvant treatment comparisons. The authors did not provide an explanation on why there was a discrepancy between the subgroups versus the overall groups.

2. The authors analyzed several clinical variables, but it would be of interest to see if anemia or hemoglobin change correlated with % tumor necrosis.

3. The authors noted that platelet count correlated with clinical outcome - thus it is possible that platelet count and anemia are surrogate markers of delayed count recovery and delays in treatment.

4. Why did the authors choose "lung metastasis free survival" as an end point instead of "relapse-free survival"
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.
No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No

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If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.
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