Reviewer’s report

Title: Different prognostic implication of ypTNM stage and pTNM stage for gastric cancer: A Propensity Score-matched Analysis

Version: 0 Date: 28 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Mikito Inokuchi

Reviewer's report:
You showed patients after neoadjuvant chemotherapy had significantly worse survival as compared with patients after surgery alone in same pathological stage. This study is large-scale, and this manuscript is well-written. However, this study has several critical problems to be revised. In principle, pretreatment factors should be matched in a study using propensity score, but not posttreatment factors (e.g. pathological stage) authors used.

Major revision

1. What was the indication of NAC? In principle, pretreatment factors should be matched in a study using propensity score, but not posttreatment factors (e.g. pathological stage) you used.

2. In same pathological stage, several factors (such as macroscopic type, or poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma) are well-known factors to impact on survival. Your study did not mean ypTNM staging was different from pTNM staging, although neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NAC) had worse survival than patients without neoadjuvant chemotherapy in same pathological stage. Therefore, your title may mislead readers. Two groups should be named as NAC group and non-NAC group.

3. As described above, macroscopic type is very important factor to impact survival in same pathological stage. More patients underwent NAC might have type 4 with the poorest survival. Would you show clinical macroscopic type (type 1, 2, 3, and 4) between two groups?

4. Patients underwent NAC might have more poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma. Would you show the detailed pathological type of adenocarcinoma (well, moderate, and poorly differentiated type) between two groups?

5. Patients underwent NAC must have more advanced clinical (preoperative)stage. Would you show clinical stage between two groups?

6. Would you show the detailed pathological stage, such as IA, IB, IIA…, and IIIC between two groups? Would you show the survival curve in the detailed stage? Survival rate is very different between pathological stage IIIA and IIIC.

7. Table 2 is unnecessary, because aim of this study is to compare two groups.
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:

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