Reviewer’s report

Title: Irreversible electroporation versus radiotherapy after induction chemotherapy on survival in patients with locally advanced pancreatic cancer: a propensity score analysis

Version: 0 Date: 11 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Shinpei Ogino

Reviewer's report:

This paper is a well-written research article dealing with the impact of IRE after chemotherapy in patients with LAPC based on the comparison with radiotherapy after chemotherapy. This analysis demonstrated that the OS and PFS in patients with LAPC treated with IRE after chemotherapy was better compared to radiotherapy after chemotherapy, thus IRE was concluded as a better treatment than radiotherapy.

The objective of this study was very curious and interesting, but there are several points that remain unclear

My major comments are as follows.

1. The authors explained the safety and effectiveness of IRE in discussion session, however, complications of IRE were not demonstrated in the study, as the authors mentioned in discussion session as one of limitations. The results and comparison of complications of IRE and radiotherapy should be demonstrated in the manuscript.

2. In this study, female tends to be a risk factor of LAPC in OS and PFS analyses, however, the proportion of female patients treated with IRE after chemotherapy was higher than that with radiotherapy after chemotherapy. Moreover, The OS and PFS of patients with IRE after chemotherapy were better than those with radiotherapy after chemotherapy. If the authors have any explanations about the association between female and IRE, please add these explanations in the manuscript.

My minor comments are as follows.

1. "with LAPC deemed eligible" should be "with LAPC were deemed eligible" (page 13 line 11).
2. "Therefore, there was no a consesus concerning the survival" should be "Therefore, there was no consensus concerning the survival" (page14 line15).

**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.

Unable to assess

**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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