Reviewer’s report

Title: Prognostic impact of tumor location in colon cancer: the Monitoring of Cancer Incidence in Japan (MCIJ) project.

Version: 0 Date: 28 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Safiya Karim

Reviewer's report:

This is a population-based study to assess the prognostic impact of the tumor site for colorectal cancer in Japanese patients. Overall this is a well conducted study. A few comments are below:

1. Some major limitations of this study include - that stage is lacking for 14% of patients, the authors were unable to control for the use of adjuvant chemotherapy in stage III disease and the authors have already mentioned significant issues with the quality of the registry data. These limitations should be clearly identified.

2. I am unsure why the authors chose to classify extent of disease as local, regionalized and distant rather than specific stage groupings (unless this was not available/ reliable from the registry data). A comment regarding this would be helpful in the manuscript.

3. What is the follow-up time in this analysis?

4. In addition to references 15 and 16, the analysis of the SEER database by Schrag et al presented at ASCO 2016 should be added as a reference.

The relationship between primary tumor sidedness and prognosis in colorectal cancer. Schrag et al.

DOI: 10.1200/JCO.2016.34.15_suppl.3505 Journal of Clinical Oncology 34, no. 15_suppl (May 2016) 3505-3505.

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 recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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