Reviewer's report

Title: Dynamic prediction of long-term survival in patients with primary gastric diffuse large Bcell lymphoma: A SEER population-based study

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Reviewer: Judith Ann Ferry

Reviewer's report:

The authors have evaluated a large series of gastric DLBCL derived from the SEER database. They then identified clinical factors associated with outcome and created a statistical tool for predicting outcome for individual cases.

The authors have excluded patients whose deaths were not tumor related. Does that mean that patients who died of complications of chemotherapy or radiotherapy were excluded? There is almost certainly some long-term impact of survival on patients who received such therapy. What about those who underwent complete gastrectomy? Perhaps the authors should investigate overall survival as well as cancer-specific survival.

The types of chemotherapy, details of radiation therapy, and types of surgical procedures are not given. The authors acknowledge that data in SEER database is incomplete. Presumably most who received chemotherapy were treated with CHOP, but how many received rituxan? Did it improve outcome? Did some receive non-anthracycline containing chemotherapy regimens? How did they do compared to others? Is dosage of radiation available? Did patients who underwent surgery undergo partial or complete gastrectomy? Is this information available for any patients in SEER? If so, there should be an effort to incorporate that information into the predictive model.

No pathologic information is recorded except that patients had DLBCL. Much information is available in the literature about differing outcomes depending on the details of the DLBCL, such as cell of origin, and (in the stomach) whether DLBCL arose de novo or in association with a MALT lymphoma. Co-expression of MYC and BCL2, and presence or absence of MYC, BCL2 and/or BCL6 rearrangements may also impact survival. If any of this information is available, it should be incorporated into the authors' model.

Under "long term patient survival" there is a line that says "cancer-specific death of primary gastric diffuse large B cells is not constant" but it should probably say "cancer-specific death rate of primary gastric diffuse large B cell lymphoma is not constant"
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.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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I recommend additional statistical review

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