Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of postoperative major complications on long-term survival after radical resection of gastric cancer

Version: 2 Date: 18 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

"PEER REVIEWER ASSESSMENTS:

OBJECTIVE - Full research articles: is there a clear objective that addresses one or several testable research questions? (Brief or other article types: is there a clear objective?)
Yes - there is a clear objective

DESIGN - Is the current approach (including controls and analysis protocols) appropriate for the objective?
No - there are minor issues

EXECUTION - Are the experiments and analyses performed with sufficient technical rigor to allow confidence in the results?
No - there are minor issues

STATISTICS - Is the use of statistics in the manuscript appropriate?
Yes - appropriate statistical analyses have been used in the study

INTERPRETATION - Is the current interpretation/discussion of the results reasonable and not overstated?
Yes - the author's interpretation is reasonable"
OVERALL MANUSCRIPT POTENTIAL - Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? If not, can further revisions be made to make the work technically sound?

Probably - with minor revisions

PEER REVIEWER COMMENTS:

GENERAL COMMENTS: Well executed study, clear aims, suitable methodology, and concisely reported. The tables and figures are clear and add clarity. The limitations to the methodology are in the main clearly discussed. The findings will be of interest.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:

Some comments and questions for the authors:

1) This is a single centre retrospective study and although there is some mitigation with one clinician being responsible for the prospectively maintained database, there are obvious drawbacks to this methodology. For example, how was the database validated? What was the case ascertainment?

2) The series began in Feb 2012 and finished in Jan 2013, with 3 years follow-up. Has clinical practice including surgical and oncological treatment changed during this period in a way that might impact on the outcomes reported?

3) Not much can be done about the missing chemo data, but this would have added a lot to the interpretation of the findings.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:

Largely sound paper that would benefit from some minor revisions outlined above."
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.

No

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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