Reviewer’s report

Title: AJCC 8th Edition Prognostic Staging provides no better discriminatory ability in prognosis than Anatomical Staging in triple negative breast cancer

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Reviewer: Naila Irum Hadi

Reviewer's report:

* This work shows that PS did not provide prognostic validity as compared to AS in TNBC. This observation seems controversial as some recent papers have shown that PS provided more accurate prognosis than AS. Please see the following references:
  1. Li et al, 2019 "The prognostic value of the 8th edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) staging system in triple-negative breast cancer".
  2. Wang et al, 2018 "Evaluation of the prognostic stage in the 8th edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer in locally advanced breast cancer: an analysis based on SEER 18 database". 3. Weiss et al, 2018 "Validation study of the American Joint Committee on Cancer eighth edition prognostic stage compared with the anatomic stage in breast cancer".
  4. Luo et al, 2019 "Validation of the Prognostic Significance of the Prognostic Stage Group According to the Eighth Edition of American Cancer Joint Committee on Cancer Staging System in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer: An Analysis from Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results 18 Database". This needs to be properly explained in the Discussion which is lacking this particular aspect.

* In inclusion/exclusion criteria also mention type of surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy etc.

* Abstract: Page 3; lines 15 & 16 - Why DSS is repeated twice?

* Prognostic stages could not be assigned due to presence of micro metastasis (pN1mi in T1, T2 & T3) in lymph nodes of patients with tumor size more than 2 cm or due to uncategorized combinations of T & N categories with tumor grade and HR / HER2 status. What did the authors do in such cases?

* Page 4; lines 29-32 - Reference 9 seems incorrect as it refers to HER2 testing in breast cancer.

* Page 4; lines 33 & 34 - Reference for HER2 status required.

* Kindly mention the limitation(s) of your study.

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.
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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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