Reviewer's report

Title: Adjuvant chemotherapy could not bring survival benefit to HR-positive, HER2-negative, pT1b-c/N0-1/M0 invasive lobular carcinoma of the breast: a propensity score matching study based on SEER database

Version: 1 Date: 26 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Megan Kruse

Reviewer's report:

I think that is a very important study for the ILC community. The propensity score matching is a nice technique that I have not seen used in other similar studies. I would consider moving much of the information regarding E-cadherin mutations and Oncotype Dx testing to the introduction/background section as it does not seem to fit well in the discussion as rationale for the results.

I would also consider rephrasing the main conclusion as "In this study, adjuvant chemotherapy did not improve survival for patients with HR-positive, HER2-negative pT1b-cN0-1M0 ILC". The "could bring no survival benefit" is somewhat confusing. Also, I would consider removing the "contribute to BCSM" as you previously stated that you do not think that the difference in BCSM is related to chemo but rather patient based characteristics.

There is odd punctuation at the end of the second paragraph in the background section that confuses the meaning of the paragraph that should be rephrased- the current sentence reads "Thus, if adjuvant chemotherapy is ineffective for relatively early stage patients with HR-positive, HER2-negative ILC? Hereunder this issue is not yet settled in published clinical studies"

A similar grammatical issue is present at the beginning of the 4th paragraph in this section that states " In a dilemma, for HR-positive, HER2-negative pT1a/N0-1/Mo ILC...". I would also be careful making the assumption that all pT2N0-1 ILC patients receive chemotherapy and endocrine therapy as this does not seem consistent with clinical practice in the US.
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?
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Yes

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I recommend additional statistical review

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