Reviewer’s report

Title: Patterns of Recurrence after Surgery and Efficacy of Salvage Therapy after Recurrence in Patients with Thoracic Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Reviewer: Evelina Miele

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper reporting a single center casuistic of 193 patients affected by recurrent thoracic esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (TESCC) after radical esophagectomy. Authors analyzed the patterns of locoregional recurrence and evaluated the therapeutic efficacy of salvage therapy and the associated prognostic factors. They reported supraclavicular and mediastinal locoregional lymph node recurrence as the most common types of failure after radical esophagectomy. The median overall survival (OS) was 13.1 months after recurrence. By multivariate analysis, the authors showed that the pathological TNM stage and salvage treatment regimen were independent prognostic factors. Salvage chemoradiotherapy or radiotherapy alone improved both 1 year- and 5 year-OS, with a significant advantage from chemoradiotherapy.

The study is retrospective and with some bias. However, the results are of interest, in part confirming previous studies. While data about surgery and radiotherapy are complete and well discussed, few info are reported about the chemotherapy regimen and nothing about treatment toxicities and tolerability. The authors should address and discuss this aspect in the manuscript.

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.

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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Yes
I am able to assess the statistics

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