Reviewer's report

Title: Duodenal gastrointestinal stromal tumors: clinicopathological characteristics, surgery and long-term outcome

Version: 2 Date: 13 April 2015

Reviewer: Niccolo NP Petrucciani

Reviewer's report:

The research question posed by the authors is interesting due to the fact that only a limited number of series about duodenal GISTs are reported in the literature and it is important to share these results. The manuscript reports a series of 74 patients with duodenal GIST treated by wedge resection, segmental resection or pancreaticoduodenectomy. Analysis of prognostic factors confirms the role of tumor diameter, mitotic count and risk classification as prognostic factor. The type of operation to be performed depends mainly on the size and location of GIST.

Data are complete and well reported. However, I would like to know if the authors could give more technical details about wedge resection and segmental resection: in the methods section they affirm that segmental resection included reconstruction with Roux-en-Y duodenojejunostomy, end-to-end duodenoduodenostomy or gastrojejunostomy. Which was the preferred technique for segmental resection? How do the authors perform the wedge resection? I think it would be interesting to have more technical details on these topics.

Interpretation of data is well conducted and results are comparable with those already reported by other authors.

The discussion is well written and complete.

Methods section is well conducted; I think it would be interesting to have more data about the adopted surgical techniques, as I already said. Another interesting question for the discussion section is: do the authors think that laparoscopic surgery has a role in removal of duodenal GIST? Do they have any experience on this topic? References list is complete. Statistical analysis is quite simple. It is maybe limited by the small sample size which is however due to the rarity of the disease.

Supplementary materials are interesting and appropriate.

I think that the article deserves publications after minor revision.