Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of ABO blood group on the prognosis of patients undergoing surgery for esophageal cancer

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Reviewer: Ali Kabir

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Author

I read the manuscript entitled “Impact of ABO blood group on the prognosis of patients undergoing surgery for esophageal cancer”. My comments are as below:

1. Was mean/median age different in subgroups with different ABO blood group? It is important specifically when age is an important competing risk for EC survival and age range is wide in your study. Age is analyzed categorically as table 1 shows. More detailed information is necessary. However, even with such categorization it has a borderline significance.

2. What about stage of the EC at baseline in different blood groups? There are also other confounders like grade which are not considered in their multivariable analysis. Some bivariate analysis are also helpful for searching about confounder and interaction between variables before using cox regression.

3. When you do a procedure based on clinical indication, like Endoscopic examination and whole-body examination in your study, there is higher probability of observing positive findings in comparison with non-symptomatic cases. This will induce surveillance bias. How authors approached to this issue in their design or in their analysis?

4. What about cases with loss to follow up? Were they different from others? How authors approached to this issue which is effective on their results?

5. Considering variables with P-value less than 0.2 instead of 0.05 can be more useful for selecting some variables for multivariable analysis in cox proportional Hazard regression analysis.

The manuscript needs major revision.

Bests,

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.