Reviewer’s report

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

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 31 March 2015

**Reviewer:** Ali Kabir

**Reviewer’s report:**

Dear EIC of BMC Surgery

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

1. 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?

2. 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?

3. 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. I am strongly disagree with the comment of one reviewer who has mentioned only significant variables in univariate analysis have permission for entering in multivariate analysis. We should pay attention that confounder effect has two sides. It can cause false significance or false non-significance of an association/difference between two variables. So, we have permission to enter a non-significance variable (according to univariate analysis) in a multivariable analysis. Stepwise method in regression do the same approach and enter different variables in a multivariable analysis in each step. It even enters variables with non-significant p-value. Hosmer and Lemeshow method (as mentioned in a statistical book written by Jwell) let entering variable with p-value less than 0.2 instead of 0.05 in multivariable analysis.

The manuscript needs major revision.

I will only review the revised manuscript if they have send a response letter to each item as well.

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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None