Reviewer's report

Title: Partial mastectomy using manual blunt dissection in early breast cancer

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Reviewer: Joon Jeong

Reviewer's report:

The authors investigated the predictor for the transition from DCIS to invasive breast cancer in Korean patients. They explained that preoperative features of association with upstaging are patients 40 years of age or younger at diagnosis, presence of palpable mass, USG guided method using 14-gauge needle, tumor size # 20 mm on USG, high grade DCIS on core biopsy, cribriform DCIS, comedo necrosis, presence of intraluminal calcification, estrogen receptor (ER) negativity, progesterone receptor (PR) negativity and triple negative subtype. However, multivariate analysis was not performed in this study. Furthermore, rationale for the objectives of the study lacks enough explanation and reference. Also, discussion is not well organized.

Major issues
1. Multivariate analysis using multiple logistic-regression analysis should be done to identify independent risk factors among the significant factors on univariate analysis.
2. In abstract, they described that 92 patients were diagnosed as DCIS in method. However, in results of abstract, they described that 174 patients were diagnosed as DCIS.
3. The authors described to find the predictor of upstaging in Korean patients in title of article. But they don’t mention anything about the difference and similarity between Korea and other country.
4. More references are needed to persuade readers to agree the objectives of the study. For instance, there is the study developing the nomogram to preoperatively find out the patients with underestimation of invasive cancer [1].


Minor issues
1. Because they explained diagnostic modalities in a total of 3rd~5th paragraph of introduction, it will be good to put together these paragraph.
Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.