Reviewer’s report


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Reviewer: Maurits De Brauw

Reviewer's report:

This is a well described report on the clinical relevant question on the factors associated with the chance of lymph node metastases [lmm] in patients with early gastric cancer. Determining the patients with a very low chance on lmm would be candidates for a more local resection, possibly avoiding the higher complication rate of a [sub]total gastrectomy with lymph node dissection. The factors determining the presence of lmm are not different from those described in the current reports in the literature. The majority of the published reports are from asian countries. The authors state that since it is possible that race might be important to consider in this disease. Therefore reporting of the results from Western countries like in this study is important. The authors fail to my opinion to show that early gastric cancer is a different disease in the Western world as compared to the disease in the Asian world. The relevance of these findings is therefore limited.

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.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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