Reviewer’s report


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Reviewer: Torben Glatz

Reviewer's report:

I read with Interest the Article "Risk factors for lymph node metastasis in early gastric cancer patients. Report from Eastern Europe country- Lithuania". The authors analysis a respectable cohort of over 200 Patients with T1 gastric cancer regarding the risk for Lymph node involvement and address an important topic in the time of minimally-invasive Surgery and endoscopic Resection of those lesions. Whovver several concerns have to be addressed prior to publication:

1. The Authors do not include any information about the pretherapeutic staging and the Indications for neoadjuvant treatment. According to the guidelines all Patients with preoperative suspicion of Lymph node involvement should receive a neoadjuvant treatment. Considering that 20 % of the cohort had a positive LN Status, this seams absolutely relevant.

2. Considering Overall Survival: Did any of the patients with LN involvement receive adjuvant treatment? If yes what sort?

3. Patients with D1 LAD should be excluded from the study.

4. Survival Graphs would be of interest to the reader.

5. A five year survival rate of 50 % for T1 tumors with lymph node involvement is not great. How do the authors plan to improve their results?

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.

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

Yes  

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 am able to assess the statistics  

Quality of written English  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:  

Needs some language corrections before being published  

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