Reviewer’s report

Title: Laparoscopic vs open colorectal cancer surgery in elderly patients: short- and long-term outcomes and predictors for overall and disease-free survival

Version: 2 Date: 08 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Samuele Vaccari

Reviewer's report:

Congratulations to the authors for the interesting article, Well written and well argued.

The choice to talk about the outcome of eighty-year-old patients is interesting (as already chosen by us a few years ago for a similar article, "Impact of octogenarians on surgical outcome in colorectal cancer." Pirrera B et al.)

There are a few minor issues to be addressed:

1) In the Abstract: "the OS and DFS rates were similar (P> 0.0.005)" P>0.005?
2) In chapter 2.2 you wrote that you consider complications IIIa and major, but in result you write about wound infections (Clavien-Dindo Classification: Grade I). Please define complications better.
3) In the discussions you affirm that laparoscopy can significantly increase the number of lymph nodes taken, but then you state that this is similar to what Yang says "the consistent laparoscopy could significantly decrease the number of retrieved lymph nodes ...". Please review this part
4) References 28 and 30 are the same.

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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