**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Surgical-only treatment of pancreatic and extra-pancreatic metastases from renal cell carcinoma - quality of life and survival analysis

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 30 Oct 2019

**Reviewer:** Alessandro Zerbi

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The paper deals with the topic of surgical treatment of pancreatic metastases from renal cell carcinoma (RCC). Authors report 26 patients resected in a 13 years period in 2 Centers, describing many interesting details of patients' characteristics, surgical procedures and postoperative course, which included QoL assessment. However the paper has several weak points:

a) Numbers are small, distributed over a 13 years period, and patients' characteristics are very dishomogeneous. To make useful observations is then difficult, and even more to compare different subgroups of the series.

b) Survival curves of patients with or without extra-pancreatic metastases are clearly different but they do not reach any statistical significance due to the small numbers, making impossible to draw any conclusion which support the possible role of resection in presence of other sites of the disease.

c) Consequences of distal pancreatectomy are different from those of pancreatoduodenectomy and both are different from those of total pancreatectomy. To put together these three different procedures to evaluate QoL seems to have little clinical sense.

d) Only 4 out 26 patients underwent a robotic procedure: this small group of patients do not allow to draw any conclusion on the role of a minimally invasive approach. Moreover it is hard to understand, as underlined in the discussion, why the development of robotic surgery should enlarge the number of patients receiving a surgical approach, considering that indications to surgery are based on oncological and not technical opportunites.

**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?**  
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Yes

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No

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I am able to assess the statistics

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