Reviewer’s report

Title: A modified M-stage classification based on the metastatic patterns of pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms: a population-based study

Version: 0 Date: 19 Feb 2018

Reviewer: Rohana Ghani

Reviewer’s report:

This is a descriptive retrospective data involving a reasonably large number of an uncommon condition.

Generally, the language used proved to be quite challenging and made the reading difficult.

Too many figures. Figures 2, 3b, 3d, 4b, 4d are redundant.

The strength of this study is the large database.

However, the main findings which include the sites of metastases, survival and predictors of metastases are well-known factors with the addition of Ki67 and hormonal levels. Furthermore, the authors acknowledged that the accuracy of the report may be reduced by limited knowledge on other metastatic sites.

The conclusion is unclear. It is unclear how the information could improve the current TNM staging.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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