Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Clinical significance of the preoperative main pancreatic duct dilation and neutrophil-tolymphocyte ratio in pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (PNETs) of the head after curative resection

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 27 Aug 2019

**Reviewer:** Rohana Ghani

**Reviewer's report:**

Generally the manuscript requires an extensive grammar check.

Abstract-

Although the authors appropriately stated this "Further large prospective studies will be necessary to validate our findings"... the previous sentence is misleading. perhaps the PD-NLR has a role as an independent prognostic marker in early survival of the disease ie within the first 5 years after surgery.

Methods

Line 118 - "The main pancreatic duct was assessed retrospectively..." - this sentence is unclear-was it meant to say that the "retrospective data on the measurement of the main pancreatic duct via MR cholangiopancreatography was obtained."

Line 121- The criteria of dilatation of the main pancreatic duct is stated as 3mm- please provide reference to this cut-off point.

Line 126 - NLR values were categorized into 2 group, &lt;3.13 and &gt; 3.13- please provide reference to this cut-off point.

Results

The number of deaths among the study cohort was not stated.

Although the authors acknowledge the small sample size as a significant limitation, the effect on the statistical analysis of disease outcomes including OS and DFS cannot be determined without further information of the actual number of event.

I recommend an additional statistical review particularly for Table 2.
Discussion

The other limitation is the relatively short study duration of 46 months whilst the authors have already explained that PNETs generally have an indolent course of disease.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

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 recommend additional statistical review

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Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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