Reviewer’s report

Title: Timing of palliative care referral and aggressive cancer care toward the end-of-life in pancreatic cancer. A retrospective, single-centre observational study

Version: 0 Date: 26 Jul 2018

Reviewer: Marilène Filbet

Reviewer's report:

Please include all comments for the authors in this box rather than uploading your report as an attachment. Please only upload as attachments annotated versions of manuscripts, graphs, supporting materials or other aspects of your report which cannot be included in a text format.

Please overwrite this text when adding your comments to the authors.

The study aims to compare the end of life condition in pancreatic cancer patients referred early or late to palliative care, and this is an interesting topic needed to be addressed. The manuscript can be improved in some way:

Page 4 the reference 26 seems to have no direct link with the topic and should be removed as the sentence above.

Page 5 the definition of early palliative care is on the studies demonstrating the benefit of early palliative care, and is usually defined by the referral within 30 days after the diagnosis of the advanced cancer (ie metastatic or locally advanced), or first relapse for hematology. If this is a statement for your study, please say it.

In the discussion, you state that the "chemotherapy ...reinforce hope in a dire situation "This statement do not justify to give an futile treatment at the end of life, the chemotherapy at this stage is useless but also gave sides effects and have a cost for the patient and the society. There is many other way to keep hope ...for example giving the best palliative care, looking at this aspect (hope). I disagree totally and suggest a rewording about it, as well the chapter about "de-emphasize" the indicator of aggressive end of life in your conclusion: You need to add some references at least if you want to debate about this topic.

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:

Acceptable

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