

ESPS PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology

ESPS manuscript NO: 24766

Title: Prognostic value of inflammation-based markers in patients with pancreatic cancer administered gemcitabine and erlotinib

Reviewer's code: 03475353

Reviewer's country: Germany

Science editor: Yuan Qi

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| CLASSIFICATION | LANGUAGE EVALUATION | SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT | CONCLUSION |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing | Google Search: | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | <input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision |
| | | BPG Search: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> The same title | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The manuscript by Lee and co-workers aims to identify inflammation-based markers in patients with pancreatic cancer treated with gemcitabine and erlotinib. 82 pancreatic cancer patients were enrolled in this retrospective study. Patients received combination chemotherapy with gemcitabine and erlotinib. Multivariate analysis demonstrated that an increased neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (HR 2.76, 95%CI: 1.33-5.75, P = 0.007) was an independent prognostic factor for poor overall survival. CRP/albumin ratio was related to progression free survival. The manuscript is in general well written and the topic is of interest. There are, however, major (and general) concerns. First, currently first line therapy for pancreatic cancer is FOLFIRINOX or nab-Paclitaxel/ gemcitabine (or gemcitabine monotherapy). Gemcitabine and erlotinib is rarely used nowadays. Thus the topic is somewhat outdated. Second, it is know that markers such as NLR or CRP and others are of prognostic relevance in pancreatic cancer. The present study does not add too much (although some novel information is presented). Third, the authors claim to "predict a patient's response to chemotherapy" is not substantiated. It would have been interesting to compare objective tumor response to therapy (i.e.



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partial response) and correlation to NLR and the other markers. PFS is not the best marker for this purpose. In line with this, what about rash (which is known to be predictive to erlotinib response) and NLR ratio etc.?