

Review of: "Effect of neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio and vitamin D3 levels on the pathological complete response after neoadjuvant treatment in TNBC and HER2-positive early breast cancer – results of a prospective study"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The major issue in this study was the use of mean in the analysis. Looked at the parameter data, like ANC, ALC, NLR, vit D level etc. All had a wide range. When there is a wide range for the data, mean will not be an accurate representative. Median will be better. Therefore, if the authors used mean for the analysis, the result would not be reliable.

Second, the title stated that the paper was looking at the NLR and vit D level on the pCR rate, but the introduction did not explain why the authors were looking at the vit D level and the whole abstract had no mention about vit D level. Only at the discussion, there was a whole page talking about vit D. This paper should only focus on NLR.

Third, the authors said that the study composed of early or locally advanced patients, but they only included patients with cT1-2, cN0-1, M0. How about those with T3-4 or N2-3 diseases? T3-4 or N2-3 are truly locally advanced but are excluded from the study.

Fourth, For HER2+ patients, 13.3% received AC + PCL + carbo. No Trastuzumab or Pertuzumab? That was not a right regimen to HER2+.

Fifth, result mentioned about the relationship of NLR and other variables, but the authors did not present the results. Only the one with BMI was shown.

Sixth, there are many mistakes included many typo error in the paper. The authors did not review the paper carefully. For example: All table showed "neutrophils" in the row for lymphocytes. 2. Many abbreviation was not introduce properly. Like in introduction, Some data showed that IBM could be predictive of chemo.... What is IBM? The chemo PCL is not the proper abbreviation for paclitaxel. ROC stands for? Many numbers in the result were not properly presented and were just suddently shown up. Liek "Only 16.7% of TNBC subjects received carboplatin whereas 33.3% of HER2 positive" Where the 16.7% and 33.3% came from? It was not from the Table.

In summary, NLR is an interesting topic in patient received chemo, but this paper was not written properly.

