

Reviewer #1:

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Conclusion: Minor revision

Specific Comments to Authors: Thanks for the authors work. 1. the title, abstract, keywords, background, and methods were described properly. 2. It is recommended to use frequency (percentage) for statistical representation of a report with small sample in Table 1. 3. Brief figure legends should be added in Figures. 4. Ethics statement is required.

R: Thank you for your comment, we introduced percentage for statistical representation in Table 1. We added figure legends. Also Ethics statement is added.

Reviewer #2:

Scientific Quality: Grade C (Good)

Language Quality: Grade A (Priority publishing)

Conclusion: Accept (General priority)

Specific Comments to Authors: Pretta A et al provided a description of a real-world series on PDAC patients treated in a second-line setting for PDAC. The letter underlines an important issue, which is the need of finding personalized treatments, especially after the first cycle of chemotherapy. Considering the small number of patients I think that a realistic analysis through the Kaplan Maier might suffer from an unavoidable lack of statistical power, especially in the presence of few or single events. I suggest including a comment on the small number of patients as a limitation to draw solid results. The letter is well written and is suitable for publication.

R: Thank you very much, we introduced a brief comment on small number of patients

4 LANGUAGE POLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR REVISED MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED BY AUTHORS WHO ARE NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH DA RISOLVERE

As the revision process results in changes to the content of the manuscript, language problems may exist in the revised manuscript. Thus, it is necessary to perform further language polishing that will ensure all grammatical, syntactical, formatting and other related errors be resolved, so that the revised manuscript will meet the publication requirement (Grade A).

Authors are requested to send their revised manuscript to a professional English language editing company or a native English-speaking expert to polish the manuscript further. When the authors submit the subsequent polished manuscript to us, they must provide a new language certificate along with the manuscript.

R: Thank you for your comment, we edited the manuscript for revision. We'll provide new language certificate

6 EDITORIAL OFFICE'S COMMENTS

Authors must revise the manuscript according to the Editorial Office's comments and suggestions, which are listed below:

(1) Science editor: GIA' RISOLTA DA DARIO ED ELEONORA

Dear Authors, thank you so much for this interesting letter to Editor. In my opinion, minor revisions are required, please see Peer-Reviewers' reports as well as my additional comments: (1). Make sure to remove excessive space marks, sometimes they are before comma (see first sentence in Abstract), or before/after slash mark (e.g. "gemcitabine/ nab-paclitaxel"), or before sentence ("Indeed, intensive research efforts"). Moreover, make sure that "et al" is standardized i.e. with or without dot at the end. (2). Use uppercased form of the entire "FOLFIRINOX" word (see abstract). Also, should "-nab paclitaxel" be "nab-paclitaxel" (first paragraph of main text)? (3) Introduce "patients" abbreviation ("pts"; third paragraph of main text) or remove it completely – it is only mentioned once. (4) Please review the HR and p-values as they seem too identical in some cases, see paragraph started with "At our Centre, we conducted a retrospective analysis". (5) Change the order of sentence where Figure 1 is introduced, example beginning: "As shown in Figure 1, the need for..." (6) Change "a" to "an" before "urgent need" (paragraph starting with "As underlined by Blomstrand et al"). (7) I would put the "BRCAness" word in quotation marks. For "highgrade", I would add hyphen (high-grade). (8) When giving examples of genes, remember to italicize them (BRCA1/2, ATM, PALB2, CHEK1, RAD51, and FANCA) (9) Consider changing legend of Figure 1 – I would explain group not in the text of figure legend, but in the figure itself e.g. instead of "— >6 months; ---- ≤6 months", name these groups and their markings on graphs. Moreover, please increase the font size on axes and/or titles. Last but not least, could you provide information how Kaplan-Meier curves were plotted? If not in the text itself (there is no specific methodology section in this letter), then in the figure legend.

Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)

Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)

R: Dear Science Editor, thank you very much for the detailed suggestions. We provide all the requested corrections.

(2) Company editor-in-chief:

I have reviewed the Peer-Review Report, full text of the manuscript, and the relevant ethics documents, all of which have met the basic publishing requirements of the World Journal of Clinical Oncology, and the manuscript is conditionally accepted. I have sent the manuscript to the author(s) for its revision according to the Peer-Review Report, Editorial Office's comments and the Criteria for Manuscript Revision by Authors. Please provide the original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor. In order to respect and protect the author's intellectual property rights and prevent others from misappropriating figures without the author's authorization or abusing figures without indicating the source, we will indicate the author's copyright for figures originally generated by the author, and if the author has used a figure published elsewhere or that is copyrighted, the author needs to be authorized by the previous publisher or the copyright holder and/or indicate the reference source and copyrights. Please check and confirm whether the figures are original (i.e. generated de novo by the author(s) for this paper). If the picture is 'original', the author needs to add the following copyright information to the bottom right-hand side of the picture in PowerPoint (PPT): Copyright ©The Author(s) 2022.

R: Dear Company editor-in-chief, thank you very much for the suggestions. We provided all figures in ppt format and added the Copyright for each ones.