

Reviewer Name: Anonymous  
Review Date: 2019-12-08 19:01  
Specific Comments To Authors: Congratulations to the authors for their job  
Scientific Quality: Grade B (Very good)  
Language Quality: Grade B (Minor language polishing)  
Conclusion: Major revision

Response:

Thanks for your suggestion. We have polished our manuscript with English Editing (Non-Native Speakers of English Editing Certificate is provided).

### **JOURNAL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (ASSOCIATE EDITOR) COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The inclusion and exclusion criteria are not defined. The patients number in each case are necessary and not only %. The cut off value should be clear and how are calculated

Dear editor

Thank you for kind suggestion.

The inclusion and exclusion criteria are defined in the revised manuscript. From March 2010 to December 2015, a total of 906 patients were investigated according to the inclusion criteria: (1) pathologically confirmed pancreatic adenocarcinoma; (2) treatment with radical resection. Five hundred and eighty-two eligible patients were finally identified in the study according to the following exclusion criteria: (1) incomplete clinicopathological and follow-up data (n = 15); (2) any history of antitumour treatments (n = 69); (3) any record of other malignant tumours (n = 17); and (4) a level of total bilirubin > 34.2  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  (n = 222). The patient numbers in each case are detailed in the revised manuscript.

The cut off value was calculated in detail in revised manuscript. Each cut-off values for the NLR, PLR, PNI, and HALP for subgroup classification of OS were illustrated with X-tile software (version v3.6.1, Yale University). The cut-off value with the minimum P value calculated from the log-rank Chi-squared test for OS was determined as the optimal cut-off value.