

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-56943

Title: Association of Serum Lactate Dehydrogenase with International1 Staging System and Overall Survival in Newly Diagnosed Multiple2 Myeloma3

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
- ✓ **Accept after minor revision.....**
- Accept after major revision
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strengths of the Study

- Addresses an important clinical question regarding the prognostic value of LDH in newly diagnosed multiple myeloma, especially pertinent for resource-limited settings.
- Focuses on practical and accessible biomarkers, making the findings highly relevant for low-resource environments.
- Implements a clear methodology, including well-defined inclusion and exclusion criteria, and uses standard laboratory assays.
- Presents comprehensive data including correlation analyses, survival outcomes, and stage-wise comparisons.
- Supports existing literature with additional evidence on the association between LDH levels and disease biology, with implications for risk stratification.

Weaknesses of the Study

- The sample size of 59 patients is relatively small, which limits the power of statistical analyses and the generalizability of results.
- The study is cross-sectional and observational, which cannot establish causality.
- Lack of cytogenetic analysis or molecular profiling, which are important components of modern risk stratification systems like R-ISS.
- The correlation between LDH and ISS stage was not statistically significant, yet the interpretive emphasis on stage-wise increase may be somewhat overstated given the data.
- Variability in the follow-up period and survival data could introduce bias, and details on treatment regimens are not provided.
- The brief mention of survival methods lacks detail regarding censored data handling and multivariate analysis.

Reviewer Comments

- The title explicitly reflects the focus but is complex and could be shortened for clarity, e.g., "Serum Lactate Dehydrogenase as a Prognostic Marker in Newly Diagnosed Multiple Myeloma."
- The abstract summarizes the study well but should specify that the LDH correlation with ISS was not statistically significant, to set appropriate expectations upfront.
- The introduction provides relevant background but could better highlight the current limitations of ISS and R-ISS in resource-limited settings, framing the study's purpose more explicitly.

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- The methodology is generally appropriate; however, the absence of multivariate analysis is a limitation. Clarification on how survival data were analyzed would be beneficial.
- Results are clearly presented, but the discussion occasionally overstates findings, for instance, implying LDH is strongly correlated with ISS when the statistical analysis shows otherwise.
- The conclusion appropriately emphasizes LDH's potential role but should acknowledge the limitations regarding sample size and the need for validation in larger cohorts.
- Ethical considerations are partially addressed; explicit mention of ethical approval number, consent procedures, and data confidentiality should be included, even if retrospective.
- The language is generally clear, but there are minor grammatical and typographical issues such as inconsistent punctuation and formatting errors.
- Tables and figures are not included in the excerpt, but ensure they are clear, correctly labeled, and referenced in the manuscript.
- References are appropriate and current, covering relevant literature.