The REMARK checklist

Item to be reported		Reported on Page Number/Line Number	Reported on Section/Paragraph
INTRODUCTION			
1	State the marker examined, the study objectives, and any pre-specified hypotheses.	This study is an	INTRODUCTION
MATERIALS AND METHODS			
Patients			
2	Describe the characteristics (e.g., disease stage or co-morbidities) of the study patients, including their source and inclusion and exclusion criteria.	Line 108-123	MATERIALS AND METHODS
3	Describe treatments received and how chosen (e.g., randomized or rule-based).	Line 108-123	MATERIALS AND
Specimen characteristics			
4	Describe type of biological material used (including control samples) and methods of preservation and storage.	Line 137-139	MATERIALS AND
Assay methods			
5	Specify the assay method used and provide (or reference) a detailed protocol, including specific reagents or kits used, quality control procedures, reproducibility assessments, quantitation methods, and scoring and reporting protocols. Specify whether and how assays were performed blinded to the study endpoint.	Line 136-231 In order to control the quality of the experiment,	MATERIALS AND METHODS
Study design			
6	State the method of case selection, including whether prospective or retrospective and whether stratification or matching (e.g., by stage of disease or age) was used. Specify the time period from which cases were taken, the end of the follow-up period, and the median follow-up time.	Line 108-134.	MATERIALS AND METHODS
7	Precisely define all clinical endpoints examined.	Line 126-134.	MATERIALS AND
8	List all candidate variables initially examined or considered for inclusion in models.	This study does not involve	MATERIALS AND
9	Give rationale for sample size; if the study was designed to detect a specified effect size, give the target power and effect size.	Due to the limitation of the	MATERIALS AND
Statistical analysis methods			
10	Specify all statistical methods, including details of any variable selection procedures and other model-building issues, how model assumptions were verified, and how missing data were handled.	Line 217-231. This study did not model, so there is	MATERIALS AND METHODS
11	Clarify how marker values were handled in the analyses; if relevant, describe methods used for cutpoint determination.	Line 157-163.	MATERIALS AND

RESULTS			
Data			
12	Describe the flow of patients through the study, including the number of patients included in each stage of the analysis (a diagram may be helpful) and reasons for dropout. Specifically, both overall and for each subgroup extensively examined report the numbers of patients and the number of events.	This project is a retrospective study, it does not involve the flow of patients through the study.	RESULTS
13	Report distributions of basic demographic characteristics (at least age and sex), standard (disease-specific) prognostic variables, and tumor marker, including numbers of missing values.	Line 251-261 and Table 1	RESULTS
Analysis and presentation			
14	Show the relation of the marker to standard prognostic variables.	Line 262-278 and Table 2	RESULTS
15	Present univariable analyses showing the relation between the marker and outcome, with the estimated effect (e.g., hazard ratio and survival probability). Preferably provide similar analyses for all other variables being analyzed. For the effect of a tumor marker on a time-to-event outcome, a Kaplan-Meier plot is recommended.	Line 280-286 and Table 3	RESULTS
16	For key multivariable analyses, report estimated effects (e.g., hazard ratio) with confidence intervals for the marker and, at least for the final model, all other variables in the model.	Line 287-290 and Table 4	RESULTS
17	Among reported results, provide estimated effects with confidence intervals from an analysis in which the marker and standard prognostic variables are included, regardless of their statistical significance.	Table 3 and Table 4	RESULTS
18	If done, report results of further investigations, such as checking assumptions, sensitivity analyses, and internal validation.	This project does not	RESULTS
DISCUSSION			
19	Interpret the results in the context of the pre-specified hypotheses and other relevant studies; include a discussion of limitations of the study.	Line 305-355	DISCUSSION
20	Discuss implications for future research and clinical value.	Line 305-318 and 356-382	DISCUSSION

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*As the checklist was provided upon initial submission, the page number/line number reported may be changed due to copyediting and may not be referable in the published version. In this case, the section/paragraph may be used as an alternative reference.