Reviewer's report

Title: Long-term outcome of vertebral artery origin stenosis in patients with acute ischemic stroke

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Reviewer: Kwang Yeol Park

Reviewer's report:

This is a prospective observational study using a single center registry. The enrolled 774 consecutive patients with acute ischemic stroke and evaluated the clinical significance of VAO stenosis.

Major compulsory revisions:

1. The authors found significant VAO stenosis (>50%) in 149 patients and 12 of them were treated with intervention and excluded. What was the criteria of angioplasty or stenting in these patients? The impact of exclusion of them should be addressed in Discussion.

2. In patients with symptomatic VAO stenosis, TOAST classification of SAO or CE seems to be irrelevant. If they have significant stenosis and other features compatible with SAO or CE, they should be classified as “Two or more”. However there were 18 SAO and 5 CE patients with symptomatic VAO stenosis in table 1.

3. The definition of symptomatic VAO stenosis is somewhat confusing. For example, patients with left VAO stenosis and Rt. PICA territory infarction should be classified to have symptomatic VAO according to the author’s criteria.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.