Reviewer’s report

Title: Prognostic significance of lymphangiogenesis in laryngeal carcinoma patients

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Reviewer: Fernando Schmitt

Reviewer’s report:

This study reinforces the value to assess lymphatic vascular density as a prognostic factor in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC). Very similar work was done by our group in oral carcinomas and the results are very similar when the author grouped all HNSCC (laryngeal and pharyngeal) (World J Surg Oncol 2007; 5:140). This paper is more recent than all references cited by the authors related to LVD and HNSCC and should be included in the paper. The main question of the present paper is the discrepancy between laryngeal and pharyngeal tumours concerning prognosis and lymphatic vessel and LVD. This finding is very important and deserves more discussion by the authors that just mention previous reports. Why oral carcinomas and laryngeal carcinomas are prognostically related to LVD and pharyngeal tumours not? Is this an anatomic problem? Other issue that need to be clarified is the criteria used to select cases for double staining (Ki-67 and D2-40) and to state how many cases were studied.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'