Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic Models to Predict Overall Survival of Children and Adolescence Patients with Rhabdomyosarcoma

Version: 2 Date: 24 June 2014

Reviewer: Aaron Weiss

Reviewer's report:

The authors should be commended for analysing such a large cohort of children and adolescents with rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) within a more modern era of treatment to help develop better individualized predictive models of outcome utilizing a number of well-established prognostic variables. Although the findings of this group do not uncover novel factors and while acknowledging the limitations of the SEER database, the authors do further validate current and proposed risk stratification models in RMS that may be more applicable to the general population of patients, particularly those unable to be enrolled on clinical trials.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

The Figure 2 nomogram and its explanation are extremely confusing. Since this is the cornerstone of the paper, I would recommend simplifying the figure and text to improve clarity. The nomogram should be more self-explanatory and able to "stand alone". Additionally, less time could be spent in the discussion section rationalizing what makes this manuscript different than prior publications that have reached similar conclusions and more time could be spent expounding on the specifics and practicalities of the nomogram (e.g., how the association among the each variable and its corresponding point value was determined) in descriptive, non-statistical terms.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.