Reviewer’s report

Title: Prognostic impact of urokinase-type plasminogen activator system components in patients with clear cell renal cell carcinoma

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Reviewer: Sandra Steffens

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Füssel et al investigated the role of urokinase-type plasminogen activator system components in 112 patients with ccRCC. As urokinase-type plasminogen activator system components, uPA, uPAR and PAI-1, play an important role in tumor invasion and progression a potential role as prognostic marker was assessed showing that uPA and uPAR are associated with a significantly shorter survival in patients with ccRCC. This is a very interesting, well written work and I have only one minor remark:

You cite in the discussion:

‘For primary breast cancer, the determination of uPA and PAI-1 antigen levels in tumour tissue extracts has already entered clinical practice for risk stratification and individual therapy decisions in patients with lymph node-negative disease [15,33]. This approach might be also imaginable for ccRCC patients without distant metastasis,…’ why not for patients with lymph node neg. RCC? In your study you have excluded patients with distant metastasis (which is comprehensible) but 6 patients with lymph node metastasis were included in this study - please explain the rational for this decision.

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