Reviewer's report

Title: Utility of 18F-fluorodeoxyglucose emission tomography/computed tomography fusion imaging in combination with ultrasonography for axillary staging in primary breast cancer

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Reviewer: Siroos Mirzaei

Reviewer's report:

The authors discuss an interesting issue comparing the preoperative diagnostic accuracies of 18-FDG PET/CT and axillary ultrasonography (AUS).

Major Compulsary Revisions:
The specificity of AUS alone was 99%. Regarding the high radiation exposure by PET-CT and also costs of the examination it should be discussed whether in the patients with positive results by AUS additional PET/CT would be necessary, or more preferably not.

At this stage of literature and also due to the limited results of this study we could not in general recommend the combination of PET/CT and AUS for the preoperative staging of the breast cancer patients. Therefore, the conclusion of the study should be accordingly adapted.

Minor Essential Revisions:
It could be interesting for the reader to know whether the positive lymph nodes found by FDG-PET matched the SNB results.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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.