Reviewer’s report

Title: Microvessel density as a new prognostic marker after radiotherapy in rectal cancer

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Reviewer: Adam AD Dziki

Reviewer’s report:

Colorectal cancer needs determination of more definitive prognostic factors, which may help to obtain better clinical results. One of these factors is angiogenesis, which is the topic of this paper. This is well design study, which deals with important issue; if radiotherapy and in what extend may influence angiogenesis and survival. I did not find in this paper, when the patients after short course rtg-therapy were operated. I guess that it was during 7 days after radiation and the patients from the long course radiotherapy group were probably operated 6 weeks later. It would be interesting to know if vascular density after short course radiotherapy would be similar after 6 weeks of breake. The authors have confirmed that long course of radiotherapy causes lower vascular density and angiogenesis has influence on survival.

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 below