Reviewer's report

Title: Incidence, histopathologic analysis and distribution of tumors of the hand

Version: 2 Date: 19 April 2014

Reviewer: Ralf Oheim

Reviewer's report:

The authors describe a large collective of primary bone tumors and tumor lesions of the hand with the aim to improve the knowledge of these entities and facilitate the differential diagnosis. The study is retrospective in nature and is therefore limited concerning prospective aspects of tumor progress or therapeutic effects. 631 Patients were evaluated to elucidate the characteristic features of hand tumors. The distribution of the tumors in every single part of the hand skeleton was in the center of attention. Additionally age and gender related differences between the varying tumor entities were analyzed.

There are some limitations to the study: For example the lacking information concerning the therapeutic options. But as the focus was on the diagnostic workup the paper should not be rejected for the above-mentioned reason. The analysis of such a large cohort is a substantial contribution to the literature of hand tumors as it is as far to my knowledge the biggest number of hand tumors retrospectively analyzed. The statistical workup is nicely illustrated and helps the reader to deal with the subject.

Minor comments:

Generally the authors should emphasize in their conclusion and in the discussion, that the data they are presenting are relevant for the clinician to differentiate tumor entities of the hand. The statistical data may help to interpret unclear or difficult radiologic findings according to the age and gender of the patient. Furthermore they raise awareness for rare and unknown tumors which may accidently be seen on x-ray films.

- The manuscript should be checked by a native English speaker, as I am not I don’t make comments on spelling or grammar

- Figure 1: The grey lines of the circles are not very good visible as well as the male gender signs. A) Age groups by decades (without comma) C) The bars don’t point correctly to the circle diagram D) The bars don’t point correctly to the circle diagram E) Check the correct and symmetric position of the text in the table

- Figure 3: The grey lines of the circles are not very good visible as well as the male gender signs. C, G: Check the correct and symmetric position of the text in the table

- Figure 4: The grey lines of the circles are not very good visible as well as the
male gender signs. C, G: Check the correct and symmetric position of the text in the table

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In summary I suggest to accept the manuscript if the authors address my concerns adequately.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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