Reviewer’s report

Title: An easy and effective way to classify prognostic comorbidity in candidates for radical prostatectomy.

Version: 2 Date: 23 November 2013

Reviewer: Stanley Yap

Reviewer’s report:

This study assessed the impact of various methods of classifying comorbidity and their ability to predict mortality in patients undergoing radical prostatectomy. They analyzed a consecutive series of over 2000 patients. The researchers are to be commended in attempting to better predict outcomes and stratify patients undergoing treatment for localized prostate cancer. However, I have several concerns with the current manuscript.

1) The Cox models (Tables 1, 2, 3), particularly the multivariable model is not clear. What outcome is being assessed? Overall survival? Also, more description needs to be included regarding the method of model building in both the methods and results. It is stated that the optimal models is selected. How were the variables selected? Were only the listed variables included or are these only the statistically significant variables from the model? Was collinearity assessed between the overlapping comorbidity variables? I would imagine a significant overlap among these variables (ASA, charlson, age, BMI).

2) Figure 2: Why were cumulative incidence curves utilized to demonstrate these findings on overall survival as opposed to Kaplan-Meier curves? Also, cumulative incidence lines are not visible in Figure 2a. Please adjust figure.

3) Figure 1: need to clarify outcome and competing cause that is controlled for.

4) Figure 2: A stratified analysis based on age is presented. Why was this stratification presented versus other stratifications? Was this analysis determined a priori?

5) A general descriptive table of patient characteristics (Table 1) needs to be provided to better characterize the population.

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:

None