Reviewer’s report

Title: Developing a Complex Intervention for the Outpatient Management of Incidentally Diagnosed Pulmonary Embolism in Cancer Patients.

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Reviewer: David Jimenez

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This is an interesting study in which authors developed a complex intervention for the outpatient management of incidentally diagnosed pulmonary embolism in cancer patients. Little evidence on the prognostic implications of these incidental findings is available to guide clinical decision-making. A recent survey found that most respondents felt comfortable with treating incidental PE on an outpatient basis, in particular in the case of subsegmental PE (J Thromb Haemost 2013; 11: 208-13).

Discretionary comments:

1. I miss a more explicit definition of incidental PE in the manuscript. I advocate for using the definition as recommended by the subcommittee on hemostasis and malignancy of the SSC of the ISTH (J Thromb Haemost 2012; 10: 2602-4).

2. There is no comment regarding blood tests for outpatient therapy of these patients. Particularly, I believe that creatinine and platelet count should be carefully checked in every PE patient, particularly when considering outpatient therapy of their disease.

3. The authors discuss that the PESI was not specifically developed neither for patients with cancer nor for patients with incidental PE. There are some recent scores that were derived for cancer patients (POMPE, Thromb Res 2012; 129: e194-9; RIETE, Chest 2013; 143: 138-45), and might be commented in the manuscript.

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.