Reviewer's report

Title: Is there only one cachexia? Evaluation of routine laboratory parameters in patients with different diseases that can cause cachexia

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Reviewer: Jeannine Bachmann

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Review: Is there only one cachexia? Evaluation of routine laboratory parameters in patients with different diseases that can cause cachexia

This study analyses the differences in laboratory parameters and clinical data of 119 patients with hematological tumors (M. Hodgkin and non- Hodgkin lymphoma), non- hematological solid tumors and patients with chronic heart failure with regard to weight loss exceeding 5% of the stable weight.

The authors found out, that patients with cachexia had significantly elevated CrP-levels and significantly reduced levels of albumin and hemoglobin; these results are not new. It seems that patients suffering from hematological tumors have higher albumin levels and lower CrP- levels and therefore seem to be in a better condition than those with solid tumors.

There are some points to mention:

• It has to be clarified, if these patients are consecutive patients, or selected ones: if the patients are selected, the result that there is no significant difference in the occurrence of cachexia is not surprising (see Table 1).

• Number of patients:

The number of patients is 119: 55 are suffering from a hematological disease and 43 from solid tumors: the given numer (19 hepatocellular cancer, 8 colorectal cancer, 6 pancreatic cancer, 3 biliary duct cancer, 2 gastric cancer, 3 cancer of unknown primary site): 2 patients are missing.

• Table 1:

The data in table 1 should show the results of patients with chronic heart failure and solid tumors separated to show if there are differences between the patients suffering from a tumor to those with a chronic benign disease.

• Tables 2, 3 and 4:

The description of the values are missing: mean levels with standarddeviation is presented, but this has to be written in the heading.

• Figures 1, 2 and 3: The definition of the y- axis is missing.
• Statistics: I would suggest to present median levels with upper and lower quartile instead of mean and standarddeviation.

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.