Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of routine laboratory parameters related to cachexia: differences between patients with hematological diseases and patients with solid tumors or heart failure - Is there only one cachexia?

Version: 2 Date: 20 October 2012

Reviewer: Jeannine Bachmann

Reviewer's report:

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

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 have now presented a revised version, with a point- by- point answer to every reviewer comment. In my opinion, there are still some points to mention:

• In the authors contributions section there are the following authors named: TL, ZS, TFM and RV.

In the authors list at the beginning of the manuscript there are the following names given:

Tomislav Letilovic (=TL), Sonja Perkov (= ZS?), Zlata Flegar Mestric (= TFM?) and Radovan Vrhovac (=RV). In two of the authors there is a mistake to detect, probably also typing error?

• There are different cut- off levels for hemoglobin written in the manuscript: on pages 4 and 11 the cut- off is 12 g/dl, on page 15 it is 1,2 g/dl, which is a tenth of this normal value. This should be clarified or changed as it is perhaps also typing error?

• In figures 1&2 the definition of the axis overwrites the numbers. Furthermore, it is, in my opinion, better to show 100% on the axis instead of only 90% as done in figure 3.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

no competing interests.