Reviewer's report

Title: The dating of thrombus organization in cases of pulmonary embolism: an autopsy study

Version: 2 Date: 17 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Dionyssios Leftheriotis

Reviewer's report:

My major comments on this interesting topic are the following:

1. comorbidities possibly related with prognosis and death are not presented in detail (hypertension, diabetes, peripheral angiopathy, atrial fibrillation etc)

2. data from computed tomography, such as the size and location of thrombi, are not presented and discussed, although related with prognosis. If not performed, please explain the reasons.

3. the relation between time of thrombus formation and death is not clear in the discussion and conclusions, although mentioned as of clinical importance in introduction

4. the clinical implication of histological findings in terms of prognosis and therapeutic suggestions would enforce the clinical impact of the study

5. the clinical implication of the study is missing in general. The authors rise the question of whether thrombi were formed prior or following a traumatic event. Would this change clinical practice regarding prophylactic anticoagulation according to risk factors? Would time to thrombus formation and death lead to modification of the current antithrombotic strategy?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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