Reviewer's report
Title: MR imaging features of benign retroperitoneal paragangliomas and schwannomas

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Reviewer: tianming qiu

Reviewer's report:
Differential diagnosis between retroperitoneal paragangliomas and schwannomas is difficult. It is of significance because some non-functional retroperitoneal paragangliomas cannot be detected by blood or urine test. Preoperative differential diagnosis will be important for surgeons and anesthetist. In this study, the authors tried to analyze features on MRI which can differentiate these two tumors. However, there are several issues need to be interpreted in this manuscript.

1. The significance of this study is not clearly expressed. As retroperitoneal paragangliomas can be divided into two types: functional tumors and non-functional tumors. Functional retroperitoneal paragangliomas can be differentiated from schwannomas by clinical features and blood/urine test. Only these non-functional paragangliomas with negative test results needs to be diagnosed using MRI and CT. MRI is also useful for providing information about the relationship between tumor and adjacent tissues.

2. As all imaging features are based on tumor pathology, is there any relationship between imaging features and pathological findings? What's the possible reason why necrosis and avid enhancement suggest retroperitoneal extra-adrenal paragangliomas?

3. MRA is a good way to show tumor vessels. Did the authors acquire MRA for these cases and get any different results between retroperitoneal paragangliomas and schwannomas?

4 The paper writing is not so good and needs to be carefully modified.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes
**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

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

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