Reviewer’s report

Title: High serum levels of caspase-cleaved cytokeratin-18 are associated with malignant middle cerebral artery infarction patient mortality

Version: 1 Date: 17 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Yangkun Chen

Reviewer’s report:

Reviewer’s comments

In general, this study provided a novel investigation of the association between CCCK-18 and mortality of patients with malignant MCA infarction. The design and analyses are sound. However, there are some issues concerned.

1. Introduction

According to the recruited subjects, the aim should be limited to 'malignant MCA infarction' rather than ischemic stroke. Thus, it should be clearly demonstrated.

2. Methods

Were the subjects recruited consecutively? These should be added.

Exclusion criteria were not clear. Should symptomatic ICH/SAH be excluded? Other co-morbid diseases, COPD? Heart failure? Other CNS disease? These should be confirmed.

3. Variables

The mortality of a large territory stroke may be associated with a number of factors. The studied factors in the study might not be adequate. For example, history (hypertension, diabetes, smoking, BP at admission, AF, heart disease, some laboratory results (BNP, HbA1C, etc), as well as whether there was a haemorrhagic transformation. These information is important for mortality in MMCAI.

Discussion

The interpretation of mechanism underlying this result was too simple and the authors only stated that facts only again.
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.

Yes

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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