Reviewer's report

Title: The predictive role of preoperative serum albumin levels in glioblastoma patients

Version: 3  Date: 3 November 2014

Reviewer: Solmaz Sahebjam

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Other tumor specific markers such as presence of IDH mutations should be included in multivariate analysis.

2. Albumin is an acute phase reactive protein. Serial measurements before and after surgery as well as during treatment may provide more information than one point measurement. Please also provide information on dose of steroids, level of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) and C-reactive protein (CRP) if available.

3. Authors suggest that low albumin can be secondary to elevated levels of cytokines such as IL-6. The role of IL-6 in cancer cachexia in other cancer types is shown. It would be helpful if authors can provide data on level of IL-6 in the studied patients and incorporate the data to their analysis.

4. This study is underpowered and larger number of patient population is recommended.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.