Reviewer’s report

Title: The institutional learning curve is associated with survival outcomes of robotic radical hysterectomy for early-stage cervical cancer-A retrospective study

Version: 0 Date: 26 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Edward Lloyd Trimble

Reviewer's report:

1. I recommend that you add to the background or methods section the number of surgeons at your institution qualified for robotic surgery for cervical cancer over the years in question, as well as the requirements for such certification.
2. I was not able to find in your statistical plans how you have handled the fact that patients in the RRH2 cohort have shorter follow-up times than those in RRH1 or many of the patients in the ARH cohort.
3. I was unable to follow your arguments on page 8, lines 159-166. Please clarify.
4. On page 9, you state on line 170 that a well-controlled trial is needed. On line 184-185 you state that the mode of surgery should be determined according to each surgeon's proficiency. Please reconcile these two statements.

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing conflicts

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal