Reviewer's report

Title: Diagnoses from lung specimen collected through flexible bronchoscopy from patients in a tertiary hospital in Dar es Salaam Tanzania: A retrospective cross-sectional study

Version: 0 Date: 16 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Donald Lazarus

Reviewer's report:

This paper is an interesting report summarizing the findings and trends of a newly-established bronchoscopy program in a referral center in Tanzania. The authors report the institution's experience establishing a formal bronchoscopy program after having staff undergo formal training. They clearly describe the trend of growth in volume of the program. They report the most common indications for bronchoscopy, diagnoses obtained via bronchoscopy, and sampling techniques utilized. It is encouraging to see institutions gaining access to bronchoscopy for their patients and thereby extending their diagnostic reach. This is to my knowledge the first report describing the frequency of indications for bronchoscopy in Tanzania as well as the diagnoses obtained and techniques used. This sort of epidemiologic data is very useful, particularly to other institutions in the region that are considering the development of their own bronchoscopy programs. I would recommend some medical editing to clarify some of the information in the results—especially the paragraph about histologic findings. I was a little confused at first especially by the use of the word majority to describe frequency of adenocarcinoma among the biopsy diagnoses when the frequency was only 34%. I think I was able to determine the authors' meaning eventually but it could be cleared up a bit. Regarding the statistical methods, the authors have chosen appropriate descriptive statistics with one caveat. They report using means and standard deviations for continuous variables, and this the correct way to report that data IF the continuous variables are normally distributed. If the distribution of variables is skewed then median and interquartile range would be the correct way. I don't know if the variables they describe are all normally distributed so the authors should clarify this point. I think the discussion section could be more focused on the findings particular to their hospital and region. This type of descriptive report doesn't need to tell us they hypotheses about why adenocarcinomas have become more common. They could cut some of this and focus more on the implications of their own findings about the ramping up and formalization of a new bronchoscopy program. Overall a nice report which could use a little editing, focus, and clarification but which reports useful and interesting data about the development of a new bronchoscopy program in an important developing region.

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?**
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Yes

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I recommend additional statistical review

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Needs some language corrections before being published

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