Reviewer’s report

Title: Survival After Lobectomy Versus Sub-Lobar Resection in Elderly with Stage I NSCLC: A Meta-analysis

Version: 3 Date: 21 Feb 2019

Reviewer: Research Square

Reviewer's report:

"STATISTICAL REVIEWER ASSESSMENT:

Is the study design appropriate for the research question (considering whether the analyzed population accurately reflects the design and whether you see any problems with control/comparison groups, e.g., likely confounders)?
No - there are minor issues

Are methodologies adequate and well implemented (considering whether assumptions are addressed and whether analyses are robust)?
No - there are minor issues

Are the analyses adequately communicated (considering whether reporting details are adequate and whether figures and tables are well labeled and described)?
No - there are minor issues

Does the interpretation accurately reflect the analyses without overstatement (considering whether limitations/bias are acknowledged and whether accurate descriptors, e.g., 'significant', are used?  
Yes - interpretation accurately reflects analyses, limitations/bias are acknowledged, accurate descriptors are used

Could an appropriately REVISED version of this work represent a statistically sound contribution?  
Probably - with minor revisions

STATISTICAL REVIEWER COMMENTS:

This is an interesting study and could contribute to the literature once improvements are made.

REQUESTED REVISIONS:
The search date is >1 year old. I would recommend authors to update the searches to identify any newer relevant articles.
Provide the clinicaltrials.gov number for the ongoing randomized trial evaluating sub-lobar resection vs lobectomy. Provide the complete search strategy from at least one research database.
Publication bias evaluation using funnel plots is not ideal when total number of publications included
in the pooled analysis are less than 10. Inability to assess publication bias accurately using funnel plots should be mentioned as a limitation.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS:
see comments above

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.

No

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

Yes

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

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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?
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5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

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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.

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