Reviewer's report

Title: Level of invasion into fibromuscular band is an independent factor for positive surgical margin and biochemical recurrence in men with organ confined prostate cancer

Version: 1 Date: 05 Nov 2017

Reviewer: Gladell P. Paner

Reviewer's report:

1. Since the paper by Wheeler et al. was published way back in 1998, the authors should provide a more explicit definition of the "Wheeler's method", rather than citing the original paper and showing a figure labeling the levels of PCI. This is for the benefit of the readers as most are not familiar with this method and some may have no access to the original article.

2. It is now well recognized that the prostate does not have a true capsule. The authors must acknowledged this in the introduction by citing the original paper by Ayala et al. (PMID 2909195), and describing the prostatic capsule as an outer condensation of fibromuscular tissue that is an inseparable component from the prostatic stroma and the use of "capsule" to describe this fibromuscular band in the paper is only for convenience. Further, at least in the title, the authors should double apostrophe the word "capsular".

3. The laterality and/or site of the levels of PCI and PSM were not provided in the paper. The authors must provide this data if available. For example, level 2 PCI could be present on the right and level 0 PCI is present on the left, but the PSM is at the left side. The authors must mention that the side/site of highest PCI does not always correspond to the side/site of PSM, if that's the case.

4. How did the authors interpret when there were different levels of PCI present at different sites in a RP? While most likely based on the highest level of PCI, the authors however must specify this in the methodology.

5. How many pathologists assessed the levels of PCI? What were the interobserver agreement? The authors should comment about the need to further assess the interobserver reproducibility of this method as among the limitations of this study in the discussion.
Minor

1. Page 3, line 3, change to "outcome associated with PSA biochemical recurrence (BCR) and poorer outcome". The phrase "failure of the surgery" is a bit too much.
2. Page 3, line 9, it should be "maximize the remaining functioning urethra".
3. Page 3, Patient selection, line 3, is should be "or were lost to follow-up"
4. Page 6, line 16, it should be "unclear whether the tumor-behavioral ...

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.
Unable to assess

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.
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