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: 2 Date: 11 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Gladell P. Paner

Reviewer's report:
To use the term "level of extra-prostatic extension" or "level of EPE" in this study is inaccurate and erroneous.

If we review the classification by Wheeler et al. (PMID 2815420) or definitions for levels 0, 1 and 2 "capsular invasion" - NONE of the levels are extraprostatic extension. In fact, "confined to the prostate" is definitional for the highest level (level 2), an oxymoron to the term "level of EPE".

Use of level of EPE can also be confused with the more recognized "extent of EPE" (focal or non-focal [established]) likewise originally proposed by Tom Wheeler (PMID 9712429) and is currently mandated by the College of American Pathologists (CAP) cancer protocol to be reported as a variable in RP with prostate cancers.

I strongly suggest avoiding the term "level of EPE". Since the authors are clearly referring to the pseudocapsule and we are aware that the prostate has no true capsule, perhaps, the use of "capsule" in apostrophe is one approach for ease, as I originally suggested but with clarification in the text and methodology, or alternatively, use the terms "pseudocapsule" or "periprostatic fibromuscular tissue". A prior review had alluded to this study with knowledge that the prostate has no true capsule (PMID16019758), and may help the authors how to approach the terminology.
Page 7, last paragraph, 1st sentence - please revise the sentence and clarify that those enumerated are limitations of the study. The sentence seems to state that the "study featured a critical reproducibility of the results" which has not been shown.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

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