Reviewer's report

Title: Kidney stone formers have more renal parenchymal crystals than non-stone formers, particularly in the papilla region

Version: 2 Date: 21 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Filippo Maria Turri

Reviewer's report:

As stated by the authors and by the other reviewer it's true that kidney cancer may be a confounding factor but with this limitation in mind it's still interesting to see this analysis.

What is difficult to me to be understood is: why T1a cancers where treated with radical nephrectomy? In the retrospective serie presented both in the stone former and in the non stone former group about 40% of cases were pT1a... And I believe this is overtreatment. Please specify the reason of this choice.

Moreover how can the authors explain that exactly 30 patients were stone formers and 30 were not? It is like saying that in people with kidney cancer 50% of the patients also have/have had stones, percentage that does not reflect real prevalence of stones.

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?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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I recommend additional statistical review
Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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