Reviewer’s report

Title: Safety and efficacy of Holmium laser enucleation of the prostate (HoLEP) in patients with previous transperineal biopsy (TPB): outcomes from a dual-centre case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 11 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Shlomi Tapiero

Reviewer's report:

The authors compared the perioperative outcomes of HoLEP in patients who had undergone transperineal prostate biopsy and biopsy naïve men. Overall, endpoints such as IPSS, QOL, surgery time, and complications did not differ between the groups.

In the methods section, why did the authors choose IPSS>6 and QOL>2 as success. It is also unclear why was QOL<2 defined as success for patients who did not complete a preoperative QOL questionnaire. What type of QOL questionnaire did the authors use?

Since the learning curve of HoLEP is steep, surgeon's experience is a key in success. The authors must provide the number of surgeons and their prior HoLEP experience in each group. Was this associated with a change in the perioperative outcomes?

When evaluating the pathology reports, was there any histological evidence of excessive scarring/inflammation in the biopsy group?

The authors mention in the introduction that transperineal biopsy includes more extensive sampling of the transitional zone. Was this indeed the case with patients in group 1?

There is a typo in the methods section- "includin"

Missing units for creatinine in table 1

Missing range of QOL score in table 1

It is advised not to start a sentence with a number. Please make the necessary corrections.

Please confirm that you have included your review in the ‘Comments to Author’ box?
As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors’ hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.
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**Are the methods appropriate and well described to allow independent reproduction of experiments?**
Please state in the ‘Comments to Authors’ box below what you think are the strengths and weaknesses of the methods (study design, data collection, and data analysis), and what is required, if anything, to improve the quality of reporting

No

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
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Yes

**Are you able to assess the statistics?**
- Are the statistical test(s) used in this study appropriate and well described?
- Is the exact sample size (n) reported for each experimental group/condition (as a number, not a range)?
- Are the description of any error bars and probability values appropriate?
- Are all error bars defined in the corresponding figure legends?
- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?

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