Reviewer’s report

Title: Robot-assisted laparoscopic antegrade versus open inguinal lymphadenectomy: A retrospective controlled study

Version: 1 Date: 29 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Nicola Nicolai

Reviewer's report:

The authors answered the questions, but some aspects are not sufficiently solved.

In particular, the intervention of inguinal LND for penile neoplasia requires high attention to avoid inadequate removal of diseased tissues or diffusion from poor manipulation. Minimally invasive surgery, which certainly offers advantages over aspects of wound complications, can be considered if there are no obvious differences in oncological outcome compared to traditional surgery.

Information on the lymph node status of the open pre-surgery series is lacking.

The description of the relapses is insufficient to understand if the relapse was typical or attributable to diffusion induced by intrainguinal or intrabdominal pressure exercise. The reader should be informed about the site of recurrence (again lymph-nodes?, what does it mean abdominal cavity?) and about any relation between stage (both clinical and pathologic) and recurrence. In this sense I had already recommended the use of a descriptive table.

Regarding lymphatic complications, a detailed description based on severity (for example according to the Clavien classification) would be appropriate, as well as a description of timing of recurrences.

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