Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of sarcomatoid differentiation and rhabdoid differentiation on prognosis for renal cell carcinoma with vena caval tumour thrombus treated surgically

Version: 2 Date: 13 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Richard Zigeuner.

Reviewer's report:

The authors report on an impressive series of 125 RCCs with caval extension. The impact of sarcomatoid and rhabdoid differentiation on oncologic outcomes is demonstrated clearly.

Major: In addition, data regarding perioperative mortality within a 90 days timeframe are also of high interest in such a patient population. So, please provide an analysis of predictors of perioperative mortality including the same parameters used for CSS, but please add use of cardiopulmonary bypass and blood transfusions as additional parameters for both, CSS and perioperative mortality.

Minor: Were there cases of intraoperative pulmonary embolism?

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- 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?
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- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?

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