Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinical Management of Malignant Insulinoma: A Single Institution’s Experience over Three Decades

Version: 2 Date: 23 Aug 2018

Reviewer: Delphine Vezzosi

Reviewer's report:

The authors described in this monocentric retrospective study the clinical characteristics, the treatment and the follow up of 15 malignant insulinomas.

Major remarks

Malignant insulinomas are rare and monocentric study is difficult to conduct. By consequence, duration of inclusion is very long in this work (1984-2017). Because of this long time many important data are missing. For example, tumor staging and Ki67 measurement is today mandatory to manage malignant insulinomas. Unfortunately these parameters are missing for most of the patients described in this study. The benefit of this study is narrowed.

Moreover it is difficult to compare patients along a period of 30 years. For example, treatment of malignant insulinomas is not the same in 1984 and in 2017. As a consequence, survival of these patients cannot be compared.

Minor remarks

Assays kits for insulin and C-peptid should be mentioned.

The ratio of Insulin/glucose is no more a criteria for the diagnosis of insulinoma.

Table 2: range of blood glucose should be mentioned.

Surgery should be more accurately described, page 10: what does "resection of pancreatic lesions" mean? Enucleation, distal pancreatectomy…

Page 10, line 24 and in all the document: could you present results as a percentage rather than a ratio?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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 am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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