Reviewer’s report

Title: ACR TI-RADS and ATA US scores are helpful for the management of thyroid nodules with indeterminate cytology

Version: 0 Date: 11 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Carl Christofer Juhlin

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript by Madsen Barbosa is an effort to correlate radiological findings using findings from thyroid ultrasound with cytological and histological outcomes. The authors included 140 nodules with Bethesda III-V status from FNAC examinations, and reviewed the radiology using static images from various national centers. The authors found clear correlations between higher TI-RADS/ATA scores and malignancy rates. Although not precisely novel, the data is sound and the results match the conclusions drawn. The paper is well-written overall, with clear illustrations and tables. As such, it is a nice addition to the scientific field.

Major comments:

1. The inclusion of patients is not entirely clear to me in terms of how many centers that were involved. Radiology images were retrieved from various centers, but how many different centers performed the cytology and pathology (rows 120-123)? Could this be clarified even further in the text? And how come 80% (!) of the indeterminate nodules were excluded from the studies because of lack of final histopathology (Figure 1)? Please add an explanation to the m.s. text.

2. The re-investigation of all radiology images was static (based on photos rather than real-time videos I assume), this is clearly a weakness compared to manual handling by the same radiologist (as technical quality might vary between users) - please elaborate on this.

3. The Discussion is meticulous, but a bit hard to follow given the numerous studies brought up here. I urge the authors to discuss their own findings to a greater extent and if possible to reduce the text regarding previous studies, at least not reporting the exact numbers from so many different publications - which makes this section hard to read through.

Minor comments:

1. A few typos are present, for example row 190 "warthin-simili", et.c. Please read through the m.s. carefully.
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.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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