Reviewer’s report

Title: Feature Selection through Validation and Un-censoring of Endovascular repair Survival Data for Predicting the Risk of Re-intervention

Version: 5 Date: 07 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Sebastian Pölsterl

Reviewer's report:

I want to thank the authors for continuing to improve the manuscript. It is very unfortunate that Reviewer 2 prefers to include the simulation study in the supplementary material rather than the manuscript. If not included in the main manuscript, the text should at least point interested readers to the supplementary material, which is currently not the case. I leave the final decision on whether to include it in the manuscript or not to the editorial staff.

Regarding the simulation study, the authors argue that comparing the true underlying coefficients is not possible, because they cannot be retrieved from the ANN. If this is impossible, I would suggest to update the tables in the supplementary material to include the number of correctly and falsely recovered features rather than overall number of features, which is uninformative. Moreover, the authors do not mention how many iterations the Monte Carlo simulation consisted of.

Finally, some references seem to be incomplete: they have a missing title, year of publication, or other information.

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.

Yes

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
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Acceptable

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None.

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