Reviewer’s report

Title: Development and validation of a novel MR imaging predictor of response to induction chemotherapy in locoregionally advanced nasopharyngeal cancer: a randomized controlled trial substudy (NCT01245959)

Version: 2 Date: 03 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Frederique Frouin

Reviewer's report:

I would like to accept the paper without any modifications. Authors correctly answer the questions arisen by reviewers 1 and 2.

However I read the paper thoroughly once again. I have a question related to Table 1: would it be possible for the authors to better explain this Table: Is the aim to estimate any difference in the clinical variables between the two groups (low ICTOS and high ICTOS ?) how the p values are computed? Which test is used? I assume that some different tests are used depending on the type of the associated clinical variable. However due to binary cut-off shown in the table even for continuous variables (for instance age and so on), it is unclear. Finally, could the authors check all the p-values that are reported in Table 1?

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**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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