Reviewer's report

Title: Right Versus Left Transthoracic Approach for Lymph Node-negative Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Reviewer: Mohsen Ibrahim

Reviewer's report:

I would like to congratulate the authors for the aim of the study and for original idea.

However, in the proposed study different limitations are present.

The esophageal cancer is a high mortality disease and, when possible, it is surgically treated. Depending on the thoracotomy side, the surgical approach can vary. The focus of the present retrospective study is on the survival rate for patients affected of cancer of the esophagus, in relation to a right or left thoracotomy approach. The collected data are interessant. English could be improved. The tables are few and unclear. References are not enough for such a vast subject. The number of patients is high, but the number of patients in the two control groups is not consistent.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests