Reviewer’s report

Title: Predictive risk factors for lymph node metastasis in patients with resected Non-small cell lung cancer: A case control study

Version: 1 Date: 26 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Micaheol rolf Mueller

Reviewer's report:

I want to thank the authors for their reply to the suggestions of the reviewers. However, the issues raised in the reviews have not been solved and actually cannot be solved, since the main limitation to this study is the limited number of patients operated on over a long period and with dramatically changed settings regarding preoperative invasive staging. In fact only a very small percentage of patients underwent invasive staging despite existing recommendations from international societies. The outcome of this study does not add to the existing evidence and the role of central tumors and intratumoral lymphatic vessel invasion as predictive factors of lymphatic involvement are well known. In fact the current guidelines for preoperative staging of lung cancer are based on these informations.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of limited interest

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

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?
4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.