Reviewer’s report

Title: THORACOSCOPIC SURGERY APPROACH TO MEDIASTINAL MATURE TERATOMAS: A SINGLE-CENTER EXPERIENCE

Version: 0 Date: 17 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Peter Kneuertz

Reviewer's report:

This study by Pham Huu Lu and colleagues is a retrospective analysis of 28 thoracoscopic resections of mediastinal mature teratomas comparing a VATS approach with access incision to a completely port-based approach. The experience, and in particular the extraction strategy is interesting. My comments are meant to be used to further improve the manuscript.

- Can you elaborate more on the selection of VATS versus port base VATS technique in your experience? Also, what factors would you use to select an open procedure in your practice?

- Please define the use of preoperative biopsy to confirm the diagnoses.

- The resection of these large tumors is of interest. In addition to the size 1 and size 2 of the resected pieces, can you elaborate on the CT measurements of these lesions with regards to conversion and use of one versus the other VATS approach?

- While I appreciate the general overview of the epidemiology, diagnosis and surgical management of these lesions in your discussion, for this paper it would be more relevant to discuss the findings in the context of the literature, provide reference date, and describe similarities and differences to previous studies.

- The description of the operative approach is important. However, a simple figure outlining incision/port placement would be very helpful.

- Please review the use and reporting of numbers in your manuscript. For single digit numbers under 10, there is no need for the leading 0. Please use digits and or spelling of numbers under 15 consistently. Please refrain from starting sentences with a number.

- Please review the comparison of length of stay. It seems odd that a difference of the mean length of stay of 0.5 days is statistically significant given the small number of patients. For continuous variables that are not normally distributed, please consider using non-parametric tests.
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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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