Reviewer’s report

Title: Halo Score (Temporal artery, its branches and Axillary artery) as a diagnostic, prognostic and disease monitoring tool for Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA)

Version: 0 Date: 24 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Michael Czihal

Reviewer's report:

The study outlined aims to answer some important questions in the management of giant cell arteritis (GCA). Some issues warrant considerations:

* Inherent methodological problems should be addressed (operator’s experience, limitations of colour duplex sonography in wall morphology assessment of small arteries). Requirements for ultrasound imaging (high frequency linear transducer > 15 MHz) and operator’s experience should be predefined.

* Different modes of wall thickness assessment of the temporal arteries should be discussed (IMT measurement in the longitudinal plane using colour duplex sonography vs. temporal artery compression sonography)?

* Introduction should be shortened and Discussion should be more comprehensive, including current evidence regarding imaging (ultrasound) prediction of the clinical course of GCA (e.g., PMID 30544199, 25659455).

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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?
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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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