

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

Comment 1: The manuscript is well written and helpful for pathologists and clinicians for a better understanding of the criteria for TNM and Masaoka-Koga staging of thymic epithelial tumors. I just want to make aware of a typo - in line 295 "visceral plura" should be corrected to "visceral pleura"

Reply 1: Thank you for your review and pointing out the mistake. We corrected it accordingly.

Changes in the text: see Page 17, line 295 (in the revised version)

Reviewer B

Comment 2: In this mini-review, the authors have provided representative snapshots of TET invasion into the stage-defining structures, highlighting the difference between the Masaoka-Koga system and the current TNM classification. Additionally, they have summarized recent findings related to the molecular characteristics of TETs distinguishing thymomas and thymic carcinomas. The manuscript's concept is clear and very informative, not only for pathologists but also for clinicians in their daily practice. In my opinion, the manuscript is suitable for publication, with only a few minor revisions needed below.

Line 155. Figure 3c -> Figure 2c

Reply 2: Thank you for your review and for pointing out the mistake. We corrected it accordingly.

Changes in the text: see Page 9, line 156 (in the revised version)

Comment 3: Line 159. Figure 3d -> Figure 2d

Reply 3: We corrected it accordingly.

Changes in the text: see Page 9, line 160

Comment 4: Line 290. with in -> within

Reply 4: We corrected it accordingly.

Changes in the text: see Page 9, line 160

Comment 5: Line 293. D: Type B3 -> E: Type B3

Reply 5: We corrected it accordingly.

Changes in the text: see Page 17, lines 293-294

Reviewer C

Comment 6: Excellent review!

Reply 6: The authors appreciate your comment.

Changes in the text: None

Reviewer D

Comment 7: This 'Review article' is well written and is of high value in furthering the understanding of staging, which is essential in the clinical practice of thymic epithelial tumors. However, it needs several revisions to make it more readable for the readers. 1) The number '1' in Table 1 is not needed since only one Table is shown (Only 'Table' is OK).

Reply 7: Thank you very much for your review and helpful advice. We revised it accordingly.

Changes in the text: see Page 11, line 197, and page 16, line 277 (in the revised manuscript).

Comment 8: Regarding the Invasion site in Table: 2) 'Large veins' is not accurate and the names of the veins listed in the TNM classification should be listed in the Footnote. (e.g., brachiocephalic vein, superior vena cava, extrapricardial pulmonary vein, etc.) Extrapricardial pulmonary artery should be included as a proviso.

Reply 8: Thank you very much for your advice. We revised it accordingly.

Changes in the text: see Table.

Comment 9: 3) Similar to the above, 'Large arteries' should also have specific names in the Footnote. (e.g., thoracic aorta, arch vessels, intrapericardial pulmonary artery)

Reply 9: We revised it accordingly.

Changes in the text: see Table.

Comment 10: Figures: Since readers are not always pathology specialists, more detailed explanations should be provided. 4) It would be easier to understand if the magnification of all pathological images is shown (a bar indicating the size would be better). Especially in the case sets, it would be easier to understand if the difference between the two is shown.

Reply 10: We added the scale bars for all figures. In addition, we added uppercase letters to highlight tumors and surrounding structures when it seems helpful for readers. If you have another suggestion, such as a more histological description of shown TET subtypes, I would like to follow your advice.

Changes in the text: see Figure 1-4 and Figure legends.

Comment 11: 5) The alphabet on all figures (lower case) and the alphabet in the Figure captions (upper case) should be unified.

Reply 11: In the revised version, we consistently used lower case alphabet for the figure captions.

Changes in the text: see Figure legends.

Comment 12: 6) Figure caption of Figure 1e does not exist. The caption of 'D: Type B3 thymoma with pulmonary parenchymal invasion.' would be that of 1e.

Reply 12: We corrected it accordingly.

Changes in the text: see Page 17, lines 293-294.

Comment 13: 7) Figures 3e and 3f should be separate items, since they have different contents, and it would be better to change to Figure 4a and 4b.

Reply 13: We separated Figures 3e and 3f as Figures 4a and 4b. We hope it will be allowed by the editor(s), although a mini-review generally only allows 3 figures/tables.