

**Editorial Comment on Predictors of benign histological findings after partial nephrectomy
for tumors diagnosed as T1a renal cell carcinoma by preoperative imaging**

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The authors clearly demonstrated predictive factors of histologically benign tumors after partial nephrectomy for T1a renal masses.¹ As they mentioned, the percentage of benign tumors in renal masses less than 4 cm in Asian patients was around 10%,² which is much lower than that in patients in Western countries. However, this incidence should not be disregarded and urologists should avoid unnecessary surgery. Although the usefulness of renal tumor biopsy for small renal tumor has been reported,^{3,4} the characteristics that identify the best candidates for biopsy are still unclear. With reference to the R.E.N.A.L. score,⁵ the present study clarified exophytic tumor location as well as younger age and female gender as novel predictive factors for benign renal tumor in Japanese patients. These three factors may help to select patients who should undergo biopsy before partial nephrectomy. To better understand the importance of this result, further studies with larger sample sizes and in patient populations with different ethnic backgrounds are needed. Another aspect of interest is the reason for the exophytic propensity of benign tumors. Pathological/etiologic research may be needed to elucidate the mechanisms underlying this interesting phenomenon.

Conflict of interest

None declared.

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