Reviewer 2

The manuscript from Härtl et al. presents the results obtained from the histological thrombus composition study of cryptogenic ischemic stroke patients suffering from Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO).

In spite of the restricted number of patients enrolled and the low power of the statistics tests carried out, however, the authors found the thrombus composition was different enough when comparing cryptogenic stroke in individuals with and without PFO. The higher RBC and lower F/P ratio identified in PFO+ patients with cryptogenic stroke, in comparison to those ones in the same situation but PFO-, may afford a reasonable biomarker of the stroke etiology.

Taking into account the mentioned above, this manuscript deserves to be¡ published in the IJMS.

Authors: Thank you for your interest in our study and highlighting its possible clinical impact. We highly appreciate your support to publish our manuscript in the IJMS. This may help to design future prospective histological trials and hereby improve pathophysiological understanding of PFO attributable strokes.