Reviewer's report

Title: Long term cerebral and vascular complications after irradiation of the neck in Head and Neck Cancer patients: A prospective cohort study. Study rationale and protocol

Version: 2 Date: 25 April 2014

Reviewer: Nam Nguyen

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting prospective study looking at the effect of radiation on the carotid arteries in head and neck cancer patients undergoing definitive radiotherapy. The study is well designed but I am not sure that the authors will have the answers to the questions raised because of the small number of patients and relatively short follow-up.

The authors should focus on the patients who had unilateral neck irradiation and compare the degree of atherosclerosis between the irradiated neck and non-irradiated neck, the MRI changes between the cerebral hemispheres irrigated by the irradiated and non-irradiated carotid arteries. Even though the number of patients who had unilateral neck irradiation is small, the changes observed on the carotid arteries and brain MRI are directed related to the effect of radiation and the data collected may serve for future prospective studies.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interest.