Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment of locally advanced carcinomas of head and neck with intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) in combination with cetuximab and chemotherapy: the REACH protocol G Habl1,x, AD Jensen1,x, K Potthoff1, M Uhl1, H Hof1, J Hajda4, C Simon3, J Debus1, R Krempien2, MW Munter1 x Both authors contributed equally to this publication 1Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Heidelberg, INF 400, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany 2Department of Radiation Oncology, Helios Klinikum Berlin Buch, Schwanenbecker Chaussee 50, 13125 Berlin, Germany 3Department of Otorhinolaryngology, University of Heidelberg, INF 400, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany 4Coordination Centre for Clinical Trials (KKS) Heidelberg, University of Heidelberg, Vossstr. 2, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany

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Reviewer: Dirk Vordermark

Reviewer’s report:

The trial is clearly presented and it has received ethics approval. In general, it should become acceptable for publication.

However, in the version provided for review, several sections outlined in the instructions for authors for a study protocol submission are missing, in particular a title page and an abstract (including the trial registration number). These should be added in a revised version of the manuscript.

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 interests.