Reviewer's report

**Title:** Toxic risk for stereotactic body radiotherapy with helical tomotherapy concurrent and following with erlotinib for non-small cell lung cancer patient - case report

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 10 August 2010

**Reviewer:** maria werner-wasik

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a potentially important case report, illustrating a possible radiosensitization by erlotinib in a patient who received thoracic radiotherapy and died as a result of radiation pneumonitis. However, the authors do not provide the V20 and mean lung doses for both lungs, only for each lung separately, so it is difficult to judge if the radiation plan was appropriate (i.e. if the V20 for both lungs was too high). Besides, for the hypofractionated regimens, the V20 (both lungs) values are lower than for standard fractionated regimens. For example, the V20 in the RTOG 0236 study (20 Gy x 3 fractions to 60 Gy) was required to be <10%, and not the customary <35%, as when using a 2 Gy daily fraction size. Besides, the paper requires to be rewritten by the native English speaker to be fully understandable to the audience.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have research funding from Genentech, who is the manufacturer of erlotinib.