Reviewer's report

Title: Is there a role for consolidative radiotherapy in the treatment of aggressive and localized Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma? A systematic review with meta-analysis

Version: 2 Date: 18 April 2012

Reviewer: Umberto Vitolo

Reviewer's report:

The authors reported a systematic review on a difficult issue i.e the use of radiotherapy in aggressive localized lymphoma.

This is a controversial issue with no conclusive data so far. In the discussion the authors should clarify better the following points:

1) The introduction of Rituximab may completely change the scenario also in localized trials because the chemoimmunotherapy is more effective than CHOP alone.

2) Discuss briefly the role of PET in evaluating response and its potential role in avoiding radiotherapy. Refers to the BCCA (Vancouver group) studies

3) Modify the sentence regarding ACVBP because a recent randomized trial (Recher et al Lancet 2011) in low-risk DLBCL showed a benefit of this regimen with Rituximab compared to RCHOP

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.