Reviewer's report

Title: Influence of Oral Glutamine Supplementation on Survival Outcomes in Locally Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients Treated with Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy

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Reviewer: Valentina K Todorova

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Re BMC Cancer manuscript: “Influence of Oral Glutamine Supplementation on Survival Outcomes in Locally Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients Treated with Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy” by Topkan, Parlak and Pehlivan.

This is a retrospective investigation on the impact of prophylactic oral glutamine supplementation on survival outcomes of patients with Stage IIIB non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC) treated with concurrent chemoradiotherapy (C-CRT). Overall the results from the study indicated that glutamine did not promote tumor growth. Glutamine had no significant effect on the disease progression at the follow-up of 24.2 months, but resulted in reduced incidences of the late esophageal toxicity, reduced treatment delays with shorter treatment course and no significant body weight.

1. The question posed by the authors is well defined.
2. The methods used are appropriate and well described.
3. The data are sound.
4. The manuscript adheres to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition.
5. The discussion and conclusions are adequately supported by the data. To my opinion, the Discussion is too long and needs to be reduced.
6. The limitations of the work are clearly stated.
7. The published work is acknowledged.
8. The title and abstract accurately convey the results.
9. Overall, the manuscript is well written. Some sentences, such as on p. 10 (Discussion): “In this setting, results of recent…..” and on same page “Confirming these results, our….” need to be revised.

Minor essential revision
The symbol of glutamine is Gln, not GLT.

The data presented could be of interest for the clinical practice, as there is a concern over glutamine providing to a host with cancer since it may stimulate tumor growth. I would recommend publication.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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