Reviewer's report

Title: Patterns of regional lymph node metastasis of nasopharyngeal carcinoma: A meta-analysis of clinical evidence

Version: 1 Date: 17 October 2011

Reviewer: Yong Chan Ahn

Reviewer's report:

* Major Compulsory Revisions
- This manuscript tried to generalize the pattern of lymph node metastasis assessed by MR image in nasopharynx cancer. The conclusion derived by the authors seem quite relevant to the clinical application. However, there is no "gold standard" in assessing the lymph node metastasis. Authors are advised to provide with (1) the rationale of MR assessment in evaluating lymph node metastasis, (2) the proposed diagnostic yields of MR study (sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value, diagnostic accuracy...), compared to CT, PET-CT, and aspiration cytology, (3) the clinical T-stages of the included patients.

* Minor Essential Revisions
- There are too many figures, which are hard to interpret.
- There are no remarks to recognize the significance of the X-axis value in figures 3-13.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.