Reviewer's report

Title: Early pneumothorax as a feature of response to crizotinib therapy in a patient with ALK rearranged lung adenocarcinoma

Version: 2 Date: 30 January 2013

Reviewer: Christopher Lewis

Reviewer's report:

This article describes the first case report of a pneumothorax in a patient treated with crizotinib for advanced non-small cell lung cancer. Although pneumothoraces have been described for other forms of chemotherapy, this report is still likely to be of interest to all those who work in lung cancer multidisciplinary teams. This case report is well written and appropriate references have been provided.

Major compulsory revisions
None required.

Minor essential revisions
1. Gefiitinib is mis-spelt in the first paragraph of the abstract.

Discretionary revisions
2. I suggest that the authors should clarify at which point the EGFR "wild type" status was established.

3. Similarly, for the more general readership, they should clarify why second line erlotinib was used despite the EGFR status - I presume this was based on the findings of the BR21 trial.

4. It would aid interpretation of the CT scans if the authors could outline to which site the thoracic radiotherapy was given.

5. The phase "chronically collapsed left lung" (page 6) should be expanded - at what point in the patient’s care did complete lung collapse occur? This is also relevant to the pneumothorax which occurred.

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.