Reviewer's report

Title: Early results of prostate cancer radiation therapy: An analysis with emphasis on research strategies to improve treatment delivery and outcomes

Version: 2 Date: 23 October 2012

Reviewer: Mack Roach

Reviewer's report:

This is an important manuscript documenting the outcomes of African men treated in a 3rd World environment. The discussion is too long as it is and could be made more concise but might include the following points:

The authors state "'Most patients with PSA > 100 ng/ml were treated with ADT only ..." and alluded to "an exercise in futility". Then later they comment on patients treated with EBRT who had PSAs > 100 ng/ml.

Recent studies e.g. Hamstra et al. in patients with PSAs > 50 ng/ml and Trials comparing ADT vs ADT + EBRT demonstrate the need for EBRT.

In addition the RTOG have reported outcomes in patients with similar patients in a Meta-analysis of RTOG Trial Roach et al.

These studies noted above highlight: 1. that PSA alone is over rated; 2. EBRT should probably have been added and the survival rates report were not dissimilar to the survival results reported by the RTOG

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'.