Reviewer's report

Title: Surgery of highly eloquent gliomas primarily assessed as non-resectable: risks and benefits in a cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 23 October 2012

Reviewer: Gentian Kaloshi

Reviewer's report:

Abstract page: there are some lacking or unclear data
- Results paragraph. Since it is one of the most important prognostic factors and could therefore influence survival times, the median Karnofsky Performance Score of the study population should be described in this section.
- Results paragraph. Line 19-20. in the sentence, the ranges of median survival are “4 weeks – 64.5 months” seem to be erroneous because in the results section of the article are “4 weeks – 20.5 months”
- Data on histology and extent of resection are missing.

Methods section;
- Patients paragraph, line 18-19. the sentence “twenty-nine patients…. (the sum of the number of patients is 28 (3+8+17).

Results section:
- Line 1-2: the sentence “awake surgery was performed in 8 cases, whereas 38 cases were performed…” It remains one patient (out of 47) without a defined approach?
- The median KPS and the range should be specified and described in this section
- It is not clear if a previous therapy (i.e temozolomide) had had an impact in making possible the GTR in primarily evaluated non-resectable glioma.
- It would be of great interest to know the prognostic impact of the maximal resection in grade II, III and IV gliomas.
- An example of a gross total resection is not provided.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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