Reviewer's report

Title: 3H-fluorothymidine can be used for early and accurate monitoring of antiproliferative effect of gefitinib in human tumor xenograft: Comparison with Ki-67 and phospho-EGFR expression

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Reviewer: Dae Hyuk Moon

Reviewer's report:

I would like to thank the authors for detailed response. I believe the authors have been very thoroughly in their response to prior review. However, I have some additional comments that need to be addressed.

Major Compulsory Revision

1. The title still does not describe the content of this study. First, [3H]fluorothymidine is not an imaging agent to be used for monitoring the effect of gefitinib. In fact, [3H]fluorothymidine cannot be used for monitoring. Second, “accurate” monitoring of antiproliferative effect may not be assessed in a single xenograft model. This study assessed early changes in [3H]fluorothymidine uptake after gefitinib in human tumor xenograft in comparison with Ki-67 and phosphor-EGFR expression.

2. In the same context, the sentences including “can be used” and “usefulness” in the abstract, introduction and discussion section should be reworded.

3. The authors stated that this study was performed to assess FLT as a surrogate biomarker. However, surrogate marker can be studied only when the clinical efficacy was assessed in relation to the biomarker. Again, I would like to stress that this is an animal study to assess early changes after gefitinib.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.