Reviewer’s report

Title: Selection Criteria for Radiofrequency Ablation for Colorectal Liver Metastases in the Era of Effective Systemic Therapy: a Clinical Score based Proposal

Version: 2 Date: 12 April 2014

Reviewer: Zhai Bo

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The authors had respectively surveyed the effectiveness of RFA for four types of patients with liver metastases from colorectal cancer. The result concluded that a score based on four criteria (response to systemic therapy, #3 CLM, #3 cm size, low CEA value) may allow to select patients with liver-only CLM for whom additional use of RFA most likely adds benefit in attempt to achieve longterm disease control. I have to say, this is a really valuable research and generally well written manuscript. I think, for this research, that the purpose was very distinctive, the methods were appropriate, the results were reasonable, and the discussion and conclusion were well balanced and adequately supported by the data. However, there are several concerns as follow.

1. Whether is the effect evaluation criteria of RFA appropriate?

2. Whether can the tumor residual after ablation be equivalent to the tumor local recurrence?

3. What is the theory basis that the evaluation criteria of “local RFA-site recurrence” was defined as a 20% increase of the largest diameter and/or appearance of new lesions at the edge of the RFA-treated lesion at CT follow-up in this research?

4. The relationship between RFA and systemic therapy, I think, may be explored in detail, such as the intervals, the order arrangement, and different systemic therapy regimens.

In conclusion