Reviewer's report

Title: Irreversible Electroporation of Unresectable Soft Tissue Tumors with Vascular Invasion: Effective Palliation

Version: 2  Date: 3 February 2014

Reviewer: Kai Bickenbach

Reviewer's report:

The authors present an interesting paper which summarizes their experience with a relatively new technology. I have several comments:

1. In results it states that 117 patients underwent IRE for tumors with vascular invasion. Was this for liver tumors as well? How was vascular invasion defined?
2.Were all the open procedures done for pancreatic cancer?
3. Vascular resection was performed in 14 cases. Was the IRE done to improve the margins then? If so, should those patients be analyzed separately? Also, what was your criteria to decide if they underwent IRE for margins?
4. Were the patients who had vascular thrombotic events on anticoagulation prior to therapy?
5. What were the causes of the peri-operative deaths? Were they attributed or related to the IRE?
6. Can you show survival curves for the separate diseases (pancreatic vs liver)?

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests