Reviewer's report

Title: The Pilot Experience upon Surgical Ablation of Large Liver Tumor by Microwave System with Tissue Permittivity Feedback Control Mechanism

Version: 3 Date: 2 July 2014

Reviewer: Philipp Renner

Reviewer's report:

Response to the corrected version:

Minor Essential Revisions
In the current version of the manuscript by Huang and colleagues, language issues have clearly been addressed and largely improved. Still, there are some spelling mistakes (e.g., line 7, "Background" part of the abstract; "predictable" instead of "predictability"). Furthermore, the sentence in line 5/third page of the discussion part seems to repeat the sentence before (line 4).

Major Compulsory Revision
In the first version of the manuscript, patients included in the study were classified "inoperable". Now, the authors state that "patients chose local ablation by their own intention or inadequate liver reservoir.", which makes a big difference. I think this is problematic for several reasons:

1) the authors don't give details on how many patients could have been resected but decided for local ablation
2) the criteria for an inadequate liver reservoir should be noted
3) the treatment of choice for colorectal liver metastases is surgical resection (e.g. see NCCN guidelines). It must be stated why patients with potentially resectable disease underwent a novel approach
4) in absence of clear inclusion criteria, it is difficult (or even impossible) to deduct any relevant findings for further studies.

Concluding, the results presented are based on a small and heterogeneous patient cohort. By that, no clinically relevant conclusions can be drawn from the data set, as a potentially large selection bias needs to be considered.

As the authors themselves line out that the key message of the article is the technical novelty of their approach, I suggest to send the manuscript to a more appropriate journal.

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