Reviewer's report

Title: The Use of Endobronchial Ultrasound-Guided Transbronchial Needle Aspiration in the Diagnosis of Thyroid Lesions

Version: 3  Date: 13 October 2014

Reviewer: marcus kennedy

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?  YES
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?  RETROSPECTIVE, YES
3. Are the data sound?  YES
4. Do the figures appear to be genuine, i.e. without evidence of manipulation?  YES
5. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?  YES
6. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?  YES
7. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?  YES RETROSPECTIVE
8. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?  YES
9. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?  YES
10. Is the writing acceptable?  MINOR REVISION

OVERALL THIS IS A WELL WRITTEN SMALL RETROSPECTIVE STUDY, HOWEVER IT IS THE LARGEST COHORT PUBLISHED THUS FAR.

MAJOR REVISIONS-
1. WAS THE SAME NEEDLE SUED TO BIOPSY SITES IN THORAX AND
THYROID NODULES FOR THOSE PATIENTS HAVING EBUS-TBNA

2. WHAT WAS THE NORMAL FOLLOW UP OF PATIENTS POST EBUS-COULD SOME OF THESE PATIENTS HAVE ATTENDED A FAMILY PHYSICIAN WITH COMPLICATIONS? DID EVERYONE FOLLOW UP AT THE STUDY CENTRE AFTER THE PROCEDURE? COULD COMPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN MISSED?

3. DISCUSSION RE SAFETY OF THIS PROCEDURE- IN MY OPINION THE POTENTIAL FOR COMPLICATION OF PLACING A CONTAMINATED NEEDLE IN A THYROID NODULE FULL OF PROTEIN JUST BELOW THE PHARYNX THROUGH THE AIRWAY IS HIGHER THAN PLACING IT IN A LYMPH NODE FULL OF LYMPHOID TISSUE- I HYPOTHESESE THAT THIS MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH HIGHER RISK- THUS UNTIL A PROSPECTIVE RANDOMIZED TRIAL IS PUBLISHED, I THINK THE AUTHORS COMMENT THAT COMPLICATIONS OF PLACING A NEEDLE INTO A LYMPH NODE IS THE SAME AS A THYROID NOULE ARE PROBABLY THE SAME MIGHT NEED TO BE TEMPERED FOR NOW.

MINOR REVISIONS-

1. DISCUSSION IS A LITTLE LONG AND MEANDERS A LITTLE WITH STATEMENTS BASED ON A LIMITED NUMBER OF PATIENTS (12)- PLEASE READ OVER AND POSSIBLY SHORTEN

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'