Reviewer's report

Title: VATS intraoperative tattooing to facilitate solitary pulmonary nodule resection

Version: 1 Date: 20 September 2007

Reviewer: Takehiro Okumura

Reviewer's report:

General

As a whole, I cannot consider the methods that the author reported as novel. I think that a lesion with size of around 1.5cm and just under a visceral pleura reported in this article may be identified visually as a protrusion of the lung after lung collapse by one lung ventilation. Localization methods are more useful for a small size lesion, a faint and soft lesion such as GGO lesion, and a lesion located deep from pleural surface. These lesions often cannot be identified by single finger palpation the way the author reported in this article. Risk of pneumothorax and hemorrhage do not significantly different from intraoperative infusion if operation will be performed immediately after percutaneous pigment infusion. Therefore, I cannot find a merit of author's method superior to the other maneuver which already reported.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. There are no figures which show a change of visceral pleura after the pigment infusion that is most important for readers.

2. Resolution of intraoperative photography is too low.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The author did not mention that the SUV value of the lesion on PET scan was either maximum or mean.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Are there any comments about the situation that it may be difficult to identify the lesion when anthracosis of the visceral pleura is strong?

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions
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.