Reviewer's report

**Title:** The correlation of SUVmax with pathologic characteristics of primary tumor and the value of Tumor/ Lymph node SUVmax ratio for predicting metastasis to lymph nodes in resected NSCLC patients

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 7 October 2012

**Reviewer:** TAMER ATASEVER

**Reviewer's report:**

Previous reports have also studied the relation between FDG uptake (SUV max, total lesion glycolisis etc.) and various pathologic features of lung cancer.

In the present report, detailed tumor pathologic characteristics were correlated with SUV max/lesion diameter to eliminate the lesion size. Authors used also Tumor/ Lymph node (T/LN) SUVmax ratio in predicting metastasis to lymph nodes in NSCLC patients.

The report is well written, give detailed analysis with satisfying tables and statistics.

I think authors may overview the following suggestions;

1)Results

In evaluation of the lymph nodes, authors need to clarify "lymph node stations with a quantifiable SUV max". Since their positive lymph node criteria is higher FDG uptake than the surrounding mediastinal blood pool, they may prefer to write "Lymph nodes showing higher uptake than the surrounding mediastinal blood pool were quantified."

2)Discussion

Study is performed in a population where the prevalence of inflammatory lung disease is high, T/LN SUV max ratios may show variations in different patient populations. This issue needs to be discussed.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests