Reviewer's report

Title: Single Incision Thoracoscopic Right Upper Lobectomy with Systematic Lymph Node Dissection

Version: 2 Date: 13 September 2013

Reviewer: Shigeki Sawada

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript entitled “Single incision thoracoscopic right upper lobectomy with systematic lymph node dissection” by Jeon et al.

I have never tried single incision VATS before and I think lobectomy and lymph node dissection with a single incision would be more complicated than those with 2 or 3 ports VATS.

As the authors mentioned in Discussion section, even in VATS (conventional as the authors described in this paper), some patients suffer from pain and numbness due to intercostal nerve paresis. One of the approaches to relieve these symptoms might be to decrease port or incision size and number of port. Single incision VATS might be the best approach to minimize this issue.

I have a couple of question about this paper.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Was epidural anesthesia performed in this case? Or were other analgesics administrated in this case? The authors showed the results of visual analog scale of pain. It is reasonable to show whether analgesics was used.

2) The authors mentioned that “VATS lobectomy with complete mediastinal node dissection is feasible to safe procedure for lung cancer”. I think this sentence was too exaggerated and inappropriate, because this paper reported results of a single case and it is not sufficient to lead to such conclusion.

Minor Essential Revision

I agree that single incision VAT is a very difficult procedure and that requires surgical technique, but personally, I think this technique is one of variations of VATS. If the authors assume Single incision VATS is an identical and different technique from conventional VATS, some comments should need to be added to emphasize an advantage of this technique in Discussion section. For example, reduction of pain, etc. Although I understand it is might be a tough request for a single case report.

Discretionary Revisions

In Discussion section, the authors mentioned other 8 patients who underwent single incision VATS for lung cancer. How did they go? Will the authors get these
patients together and report an outcome in the future?

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I certify that no conflict of interest exists.