Reviewer's report

Title: Bronchus sign on thin-section CT is a powerful predictive factor for successful transbronchial biopsy using endobronchial ultrasound with a guide sheath for small peripheral lung lesion: A retrospective observational study

Version: 4 Date: 28 October 2014

Reviewer: Shingo Iwano

Reviewer's report:

In this study, authors retrospectively reviewed thin-section CT findings of 149 consecutive patients who underwent TBB with EBUS-GS for peripheral lung nodules (#30mm in diameter) and identified that CT bronchus sign is a powerful predictive factor for success of TBB with EBUS-GS.

The study method and conclusion are reasonable, but I have some questions.

Major Essential Revisions

Methods
1. Because this journal specializes in medical imaging, the following CT scan parameters (tube current, tube voltage, rotation speed, table speed, reconstruction filter) should be described in detail. Did you use the automatic exposure control (AEC)? Did you scan by the volume scan mode or helical mode? Window width and window level should be also described. Did you use the multi-planar reconstruction (MPR) images for image reading? If you did not use MPR image, it may be a limitation.

Results
2. How many cases of pure GGO or small nodules #10mm in diameter were included in your study cohort? I think these lesions are not suitable for TBB. Please specify.

3. Did you encounter any severe complication of TBB in this study? Please specify.

Minor Essential Revisions
4. The model name of multi-detector CT is wrong (p5, line 123).
   “Aquilion One Vision Edition, Toshiba Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan”

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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.