Reviewer’s report

Title: Is stereotactic radiosurgery a rational treatment option for brain metastases from small cell lung cancer? A retrospective analysis of 70 consecutive patients

Version: 2 Date: 17 November 2014

Reviewer: Jung-I Lee

Reviewer’s report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. Radiosurgical indication needs to be clarified. The fact that cancer board of referring regional hospitals had determined the appropriateness of SRS suggests there might be serious selection bias. What are the authors universal selection criteria if they would not treat all the referred patients automatically? Particularly, indication in upfront setting needs to be described in detail so that it explain how recommendation of radiosurgery instead of WBRT could be justified.
  2. Criteria of ‘large tumors’ which were treated with 2-session radiosurgery should be described.
  3. Selection criteria for salvage treatment modality should be clarified too. The same selection criteria as in the first radiosurgery or WBRT?
  4. Local control failure and remote recurrence should be analyzed from the patients with follow up imaging data. For example, 33 patients with remote recurrence are 55% of 60 patients with follow up imaging.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  Table5. “Low marginal dose (> 20Gy)” should be “Low marginal dose (< 20Gy)”.

- Discretionary Revisions

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

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. So, below.