Reviewer's report

Title: Locally ablative treatment of breast cancer liver metastases: identification of factors influencing survival (the Mammary Cancer Microtherapy and Interventional Approaches (MAMMA MIA) study)

Version: 3 Date: 11 February 2015

Reviewer: Andrew Kennedy

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Minor Essential Revisions

There are data in some solid tumors that increased toxicity can be associated with greater response to therapy, and conversely the same is true in other tumors. It would therefore be of interest to have the authors explain if they evaluated toxicity of the three ablative techniques in regards to impact on outcomes.

Radiotherapy in particular has contradictory published data regarding liver metastases and primary hepatic malignancies related to a dose response relationship. The authors are in a unique position to compare and contrast two types of brachytherapy in the liver, and study if there is any relationship between high vs low dose brachytherapy, dose rate, and total dose and impact on outcomes (192Ir and 90Y).

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:

My institution (Sarah Cannon Research Institute) has received grant support to conduct a clinical trial.

I have no financial or non-financial competing interests to disclose.