Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic significance of the cumulative dose of cisplatin during concurrent chemoradiotherapy for patients with advanced-stage nasopharyngeal carcinoma in an era of intensity-modulated radiotherapy

Version: 3
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Reviewer: Volker Rudat

Reviewer's report:

The authors agreed that according to the definition by Antoine Italiano [Prognostic or Predictive? It's Time to Get Back to Definitions!, JCO Dec 10, 2011:4718-4719] the cumulative cisplatin dose is not a prognostic factor and implemented corresponding changes in the manuscript. Consequently, the authors should also replace the term "Prognostic significance..." in the title of the manuscript, in the Abstract (page 4 line 2) and in the Discussion. "Prognostic significance..." could be for example replaced with "Impact of...".

I do not agree that the major drawback of this study is the single-center study design (page 18, line 3). In my opinion the major drawback of the study are the limitations of the retrospective study design, in particular the variability of the chemotherapy regimen applied and the comparatively low patient number in the low-dose chemotherapy group.

Page 13 line 17: "...was significantly associated..." Instead of "...was significantly was associated...".

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.