Reviewer’s report

Title: A Retrospective Analysis on Metastatic Rate of the Internal Mammary Lymph Node and Its Clinical Significance in Adjuvant Radiotherapy of Breast Cancer Patients

Version: 0 Date: 22 Oct 2019

Reviewer: ZhaoZhi Yang

Reviewer's report:

General comments
This study is to analyze the loco regional recurrent pattern of breast cancer. In highly selected patients, the internal mammary node (IMN) recurrence rate is higher than other studies (9.5% in KJ, Born, et al. Int J Rad Onc Bio Phy. 2018; 32.5% in Carl Deselm, et al. Int J Rad Onc Bio Phy. 2018 ). In addition, they thought the anterior mediastinal lymph node metastasis belong to IMN mets which they called extensive IMN metastasis. Although from anatomy, the anterior mediastinal region is close to sternum, the authors need to prove that anterior mediastinal node metastasis is not part of extensive multisite metastasis which could come from the blood circulation.

Specific revision:
Title:
The title need to be reorganized because it doesn't accurately depict the content in this paper.
Abstract:
the highlight of this paper is to redefine the IMN metastasis, but in the methods, we couldn't find it.
Method
P 2. Line 32 "first" should be "firstly"
P 3. Line 16 French trial should be cited
P 3. Line 26 " to explain this contradiction", your study is just the composition rate of the IMN Mets in 114 patients, not the incidence of IMN mets in BC patients.
P 3. Method
When these patients were treated in your center. Whether this study was approved by the ethic committee.
Results:
P 4. Line 44 Fig (1E-F) this figure demonstrated medial supraclavicular node metastasis. Maybe it is not related to IMN metastasis.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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