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: 23 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Toshiaki Iwase

Reviewer's report:

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The authors retrospectively analyzed 114 patients with breast cancer to investigate the metastatic rate of IMNs and also to provide recommendation target delineation of IMNs for radiotherapy. The indication of radiotherapy to IMNs needs special consideration especially for the patients with high risk of cardiac function. Therefore, to determine the group which can be de-escalate the therapy is highly demanded.

Major revision
1. The definition of adjuvant radiotherapy in the article is unclear. Does it mean radiotherapy to remnant breast or regional LN?
2. The authors should describe a reason why the patients didn't receive radiotherapy. 35.1% of the patients is TNBC and most of cases was advanced. Is it because poor PS? Age? or any other reason? All clinical factors which possibly contributed to the decision should described in background table.
3. The authors should describe detail of imaging analysis and clear definition of LN metastasis in method section and statistical considerations.
4. The authors should show flow chart how you selected the patients.

Minor revision
1. Authors should show the anatomical location of LNs in figure because most of the readers are not radiologist.
2. Language editing service is needed throughout the paper.

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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