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

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Reviewer: ZhaoZhi Yang

Reviewer's report:

Line 31/33 "metastatic lymph nodes could also be observed above the upper edge of the first rib (Fig.2 EF), with a metastatic rate of 7%". In this sentence, we don't know whether the metastatic lymph nodes is belong to internal mammary node or supraclavicular node. If they were supraclavicular node, these could be from axillary lymph node chain. And, based on this point, we couldn't conclude "It is suggested that the upper bound of the internal mammary lymphatic chain should be up to the subclavian vein with a 5-mm margin, thus connecting to the caudal border of supraclavicular clinical target volume in breast cancer patients at high risk of recurrence". From the authors's logistic, Maybe anterior mediastinal lymph node should be included in the radiation field. So, this study just showed us that the recurrence rate of IMNs could be underestimated.

Figure 2 E-F is not suitable in the title "Distribution of the metastatic internal mammary/anterior mediastinal lymph nodes"

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

Yes

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?
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