Reviewer’s report

Title: Expert opinion of mediastinal lymph node positions from an intrabronchial view

Version: 0 Date: 18 Oct 2015

Reviewer: Samantha Aso

Reviewer's report:

1) At line 75 it says: "The knowledge og the...." It should be: the knowledge of the...

2) The authors write: "The areas of each drawing were calculated with Adobe Illustrator. Adobe Illustrator provided the x,y position from the center of the drawings. The average center points and the distances from the average center points were calculated. Based on the authors' clinical experience, a difference in center point of 1 cm will have a clinical impact in the ability to hit the lymph node. Agreement for center point was thus defined as the percentage of physicians with center point within 1 cm from the average center point. " To understand how the authors created the "new map" of mediastinal lymph node from the intrabronchial view it might help to describe this procedure better. It's not clear what means "distances from the average center points"? "Agreement for center point was thus defined as the percentage of physicians with center point within 1 cm from the average center point?" May you give a more precise description of the methodology.

3) At line 136 it says: "Based on the authors' clinical experience...." It should be: Based on the authors clinical experience
4) The authors write: "The main borders in the map was areas covered by more than 20% of the 14 physicians who had performed 1000 EBUS or more (Figure 5)". There is not figure 5, may be it corresponde to figure 3? The lymph 11R doesn't have a star marked?

5) If you compare physicians who have more experience doing EBUS vs those with less experience, it is expected that the first group would be more assertive when they have to draw the area where is the lymph node. It might be interesting to make a comparison between the physicians that still do TBNA and those that perform EBUS-TBNA and differentiate this last group in most experienced physicians and others.

6) Now days, the EBUS-TBNA it's one of basic tool in mediastinal staging for lung cancer more than TBNA alone because the advantage that offered the ultrasound identifying the lymph nodes we want to explore. The physicians that performed EBUS-TBNA had a anatomical and intrabronchial view where are located the lymph nodes. What advantage offered this new map over the already existing map and where is the difference from the previous. It is recommended to the authors to explain how can this new map improve the results obtained with the EBUS-TBNA?

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.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
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 am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.