Author’s response to reviews

Title: Fractionated palliative thoracic radiotherapy in non-small cell lung cancer - futile or worth-while?

Authors:

Malene Støchkel Frank (Malene.Stoechkel.Frank@regionh.dk)
Dorte Schou Nørøxe (anne.dorte.schou.noeroexe@regionh.dk)
Lotte Nygård (lotte.nygaard@regionh.dk)
Gitte Persson (Gitte.Persson@regionh.dk)

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POINT-BY-POINT RESPONSE LETTER

We have now revised the manuscript “Fractionated palliative thoracic radiotherapy in non-small cell lung cancer – futile or worth-while?” with manuscript ID (PCAR-D-17-00062R1) and we hope that you will find the changes satisfactory.

We thank the reviewer once again for taking the time to review our work which we appreciate.

Responses to the two comments are found below. We have also checked for typographical and grammatical errors.

We thank you for your time and look forward to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dorte Schou Nørøxe, M.D.

Department of Radiation Biology and oncology, The Finsen Center, Blegdamsvej 9, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark

Phone number: +45 3545 3545

email: anne.dorte.schou.noeroexe@regionh.dk
Reviewer reports:

Joshua Jones (Reviewer 1):

1) In the introduction, I would suggest defining the concept of futility and how the authors are using futility in this article.

Answer: This has been defined in the introduction on page 4, line 77-78.

2) In the discussion section (particularly the first paragraph and the last paragraph), it would be helpful to refer back to the definition of futility and clarify that single fraction radiotherapy may not be futile in this patient population and may represent a reasonable alternative to optimal supportive care for these patients.

Answer: We have referred back to the definition on page 7, line 154 and again on page 10, lines 213-218 where we have also pointed out that single fraction PTR is a meaningful alternative to fractionated PTR in patients with PS ≥ 2.