



May 20, 2014

Dear Cheng Yang,

Thank you for choosing NPG Language Editing. This is an interesting paper on clinical features, outcomes, and treatment-related pneumonitis in elderly patients with esophageal cancer. The first editor and I have revised the paper for article usage, phrasing, and diction. Please note that many of the changes are stylistic and were made to reduce wordiness and improve the flow of the paper. The paper was edited with a specific focus on improving the phrasing throughout the document.

1. We revised preposition usage to reflect common English usage; for example, “of” in the phrase “The mean follow-up period of the surviving patients” was changed to “for”. Picking the correct preposition can be difficult because there are few rules about which preposition should be used in a given situation. However, reading more English-language articles to promote familiarization of the correct forms and consulting a good dictionary to learn which prepositions are correct after the adjectives, nouns or verbs you want to use will help.

2. Commas help to improve the readability of a sentence. We have added and removed commas throughout the manuscript. As an example, a comma should be used after an introductory phrase or clause; for example, we inserted a comma after the introductory phrase in the following sentence: “thus, radiation therapy is an effective therapy for these patients”.

3. When revising this paper, we took care to ensure that articles (a, an, the) were used correctly. For example, “the” comes before a noun if the noun is specific (“Metal tags were placed on the body surface ...”; “the” was added before “body surface”); if the noun is non-specific (“elderly patients with esophageal cancer are physically weaker than young patients ...”), ‘the’ is not used.

Comments were left in several cases where further clarification would be helpful or confirmation of the meaning of the text was necessary. Please review these comments and all our changes carefully for more detailed feedback and suggestions, as well as to ensure that the final version of the manuscript is fully accurate.

Thank you again for using our editing services; we wish you the best of luck with your submission.

Best Regards,

Sarah L.
Senior Editor
NPG Language Editing