

Peer-review report:

#1. History of present illness “received 60 rounds of radiotherapy to the anastomotic area and developed” >> or 60 fractions of radiotherapy? Also, it would be great if cumulative isodose distribution [for example, see Fig 1A in N Engl J Med 2012 Jun 14;366(24):2327-9] could be provided to illustrative the relationship between radiotherapy dose and fistula.

Modifications and explanations: We have discussed the patient's radiotherapy plan with the doctor in the radiotherapy department, clarified the patient's treatment dose and altered the manuscript accordingly. Further, we have added the cumulative isodose distribution (Figure 2).

#2. Image examinations: Did PET-CT in May 2019 reveal active malignance in addition to fistula?

Modifications and explanations: The PET-CT report, “active malignance in the left lung, inferior segment sternotomy and right lobe of liver”, has been added in the text under the heading, “Imaging examinations”.

#3. 1st paragraph in discussion “combination of two or more techniques [9]” >> or “combination of two or more techniques [9-11]”?

Modifications and explanations: 1st paragraph in discussion “combination of two or more techniques [9]” has been modified to, “combination of two or more techniques [10,11]”.

#4. 2nd paragraph in discussion “60 rounds of radiotherapy (total radiation dose 423 Gy)” >> or “60 fractions of radiotherapy (total radiation dose 423 Gy)”? In addition, this information should be provided in “History of present illness”. Furthermore, please double check because overall 423 Gy/60fraction (even combined from several courses of radiotherapy) is not common to the reviewer’s knowledge.

Modifications and explanations: 2nd paragraph in discussion “60 rounds of radiotherapy (total radiation dose 423 Gy)” has been modified to, “repeated radiotherapy”. Further, the text, “60 round of radiotherapy to the anastomotic area and developed intrapulmonary, sternal, and lymph node metastases”, under the heading, “History of present illness”, has been modified to, “repeated radiotherapy to metastatic tumor of the left lung (40 Gy/4 F), anastomotic site and lymph node (60 Gy/30 F), metastatic tumor of the right lung (50 Gy/5 F), metastatic tumor of both lungs (48 Gy/6 F), and for sternal metastases (45 Gy/15 F) (total 243 Gy/60 F) with time sequence (Figure 2)”.

Due to our poor understanding of the radiotherapy plan, we made an error when calculating the dose. We have now consulted the radiotherapy doctor, to determine the accurate treatment plan and the patient's detailed radiotherapy is presented as a timeline (Figure 1), and including details of the cumulative isodose distribution (Figure 2). We apologize for this mistake. Given our unfamiliarity with this part of the patient’s treatment, we should have

consulted with the relevant professionals as soon as possible. We are very grateful to the reviewers for their serious and responsible attitude.

#5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Thanks to Dr. Yuyan wang >> or Thanks to Dr. Yuyan Wang?

Modifications and explanations: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS “Thanks to Dr. Yuyan wang” has been replied by “Thanks to Dr. Yuyan Wang”. Further, we have added, “Thanks to Dr. Jingyuan Sun and Dr. Chuanhui Cao for their assistance in checking and verifying the radiotherapy plan and radiation dose”, in the text under this heading.

#6. Suggest to comment on whether there are other reports regarding the use of ozonated water in esophageal carcinoma patients with fistula.

Modifications and explanations: We have added, “which has not been reported to be applied in esophageal carcinoma patients with fistula before”, in 1st paragraph in discussion because we cannot find any other reports regarding the use of ozonated water in similar cases before.

#7. Suggest to comment on limitation regarding the title statement “Gastro thoracic fistula treated with ozonated water following esophageal carcinoma therapy”. For example, ozonated water was not the only anti-fistula treatment in this case.

Modifications and explanations: According to the suggestion of the reviewer, we modified the title “Application of ozonated water and catheter drainage for treatment of gastro-thoracic fistula after comprehensive esophageal squamous cell carcinoma therapy: A case report”.

Science Editor’s comments:

(1) I found no “Author contribution” section. Please provide the author contributions;

Modifications and explanations: We have added, “Wu DD wrote the paper and collected the patient’s clinical data; Hao KN and Chen Xiaojing administrated and followed the patient; Li XM performed the operation and approved the publication of the paper; He XF made critical revisions of the paper and designed the operation”, in the text under the heading, “Author contribution”.

(2) I found the authors did not provide the approved grant application form(s). Please upload the approved grant application form(s) or funding agency copy of any approval document(s);

Modifications and explanations: We will provide funding agency copy “Foundation of President of Nan Fang Hospital, Southern Medical University” as an attachment.

(3) I found the authors did not provide the original figures. Please provide the

original figure documents. Please prepare and arrange the figures using PowerPoint to ensure that all graphs or arrows or text portions can be reprocessed by the editor;

Modifications and explanations: We are sure to provide the original figure documents using PowerPoint.

(4) I found the authors did not add the PMID and DOI in the reference list. Please provide the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers to the reference list and list all authors of the references. Please revise throughout;

Modifications and explanations: We have added the PubMed numbers and DOI citation numbers of all the reference in the reference list.

(5) the authors need to provide editable manuscript (Format of “.doc” or “.docx”).

Modifications and explanations: Manuscript has been changed into “.docx”.