

26 April 2014

Editor-in-Chief,  
World Journal of Clinical Oncology

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 8651-revised.doc). Changes are highlighted in yellow.

**Title:** Palliative radiotherapy for bone metastases from lung cancer: Evidence-based medicine?

**Author:** Dr Alys Fairchild

**Name of Journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*

**ESPS Manuscript NO:** 8651

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers as follows.

Reviewer 00502768

- 1 When introduce the patient-related factor of the Reasons for reticence in use of single fractions, the article do not considering whether the patient has the key point other concurrent diseases or not.
  - Thank you for bringing this omission to my attention. This has been added to Table 6 under “patient-related factors”.
- 2 The article got the conclusions that there is large discrepancy between published literature and patterns of practice about regarding management of complicated and uncomplicated BM secondary to lung cancer, analyzed the reasons from different angles, but lack of suppose for change this contradiction by some methods , as well as the prospects of next clinical practice.
  - Regrettably, this comment is difficult to understand. I have interpreted it to mean the reviewer would like to know how this gap between evidence and practice should be addressed, and how clinical practice should change in future.
  - I hope that this manuscript will contribute to addressing this gap by providing an accessible summary of the data, raising awareness of what level of evidence available is applicable to which clinical situations, and providing a list of possible reasons the single fraction guidelines are not followed (Table 6) to help clinicians critically evaluate their own practice. Ideally, all treatment of bone metastases in lung cancer will continue to evolve towards a more evidence-based approach where the data exists to support a specific standard of care, based on wider circulation of international consensus guidelines referenced and evidence summaries like this one.
  - If I have misunderstood the reviewer’s comments, I am happy to work with the Editor to further improve the manuscript based on the actual comments.

Reviewer 02682003

- 1 It is a very well written manuscript. Introduction, methods, results and discussion are well organized.
  - Thank you very much for your kind comments.
- 2 Abstract: The schedule to treat a right shoulder is quite specific since it is data from only one Japanese study. I would suggest to remove it from the Abstract.
  - This has been done.
- 3 Related to the question point in the title "evidence based medicine?", I would suggest (first three sub-headings of the results section) to classify papers on the basis of the level of evidence and discuss the results based on it (this should help readers on giving the right position of the different studies in the literature).
  - Thank you for this suggestion. Levels of evidence have been added in the first three sub-headings of the Results as well as in Table 1.

Reviewer 02416403

- 1 This review article titled "Palliative radiotherapy for bone metastasis from lung cancer: Evidence-based medicine?" is very well written and organized. I have no criticism on this manuscript.
  - Thank you very much for your kind comments.

Reviewer 00061154

- 1 Your results are hard to follow and make little sense. I had many questions but decided to go no further than part way into Results. Perhaps adding at least one more author could help you to put some sense into it.
  - I am sorry the reviewer feels that this manuscript does not meet the high standards of this journal. Unfortunately, these comments directly contradict the very positive comments of Reviewers 02416403 and 02682003 and do not identify specific areas or issues to address. However, I am happy to work with the Editor to further improve the manuscript as necessary.

Editorial Comments

1. Format, references and typesetting were corrected according to the requirements of the editors.

Thank you again for considering this manuscript for the *World Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

Sincerely,

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