

Letter to the editor and Point to point response to reviewers

Dear Editor,

we thank for the opportunity to submit a revised manuscript. We have carefully read the remarks of the reviewers and have changed the manuscript accordingly. We have also tried to fulfill all your requested changes. As requested by one of the reviewers, we have included a paragraph on the value of protons into the future directions section. This paragraph was written by an expert in proton therapy. Because this author (Alexandra D Jensen) has also critically reviewed the whole manuscript with regard to English language and has introduced remarkable changes, **we would like to change authorship accordingly and add her as a coauthor (see main manuscript).**

General remarks regarding language editing: As this manuscript is an invited review and no funding is available, we are not able to use a commercial language editing service. Fortunately we were able (as stated above) to get help from Dr. A D Jensen who is not only an expert in particle (especially proton) therapy but also a very experienced in scientific english language writer and editor (she holds two master grades from British universities). Together we have done extensive language editing of the whole manuscript and we now feel that it clearly meets the language requirements of the journal.

Specific comments:

Reviewer 1:

1. reference should be added for „Caution is advised also in patients with central tumors closely related to larger bile ducts because SBRT may result in bile duct stenosis.”

We thank the reviewer for his remark. We had interpolated the risk of bile duct stenosis from our experience with intraoperative radiation therapy (also using very high single doses). However we have screened the literature for SBRT and did not find real evidence for an increased risk for bile duct stenosis. Therefore we have deleted this sentence from the manuscript.

2. reference should be added for “Moreover, SBRT also showed a clearly favorable toxicity profile.”

We have rephrased the sentence and added a reference.

Reviewer 2:

1. I recommend only adding some little informations (1-2 sentences) about fiducials (properties, placement etc)

We have added more information on placement and properties of fiducials used for liver SBRT.

2. and particle therapy (protons??) in future directions to be completed this review

We have added more information on particle especially proton therapy including possible advantages and limitations as well as early experience and ongoing studies for future direction. The paragraph was drafted by an expert in particle therapy (AD Jensen).

3. please correct “table 1” as “Table 1” in pp 6, “table 2” as Table 2 in pp 7. Similarly please correct “irradiation” as irradiation and “cacinoma” as carcinoma in reference #43.

Has been corrected