

## PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form (<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/site/about/resources/checklist.pdf>) and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

This paper was submitted to a another journal from BMJ but declined for publication following peer review. The authors addressed the reviewers' comments and submitted the revised paper to BMJ Open. The paper was subsequently accepted for publication at BMJ Open.

(This paper received three reviews from its previous journal but only two reviewers agreed to published their review.)

### ARTICLE DETAILS

<b>TITLE (PROVISIONAL)</b>	Early prediction of lenvatinib treatment efficacy by using 18F-FDG PET/CT in patients with unresectable or advanced thyroid carcinoma that is refractory to radioiodine treatment: a study protocol
<b>AUTHORS</b>	Takeuchi, Satoshi; Shiga, Tohru; Hirata, Kenji; Taguchi, Jun; Magota, Keiichi; Ariga, Shin; Gouda, Tomohiro; Ohhara, Yoshihito; Homma, Rio; Shimizu, Yasushi; Kinoshita, Ichiro; Tsuji, Yasushi; Homma, Akihiro; Iijima, Hiroaki; Tamaki, Nagara; Dosaka-Akita, Hirotochi

### VERSION 1 – REVIEW

<b>REVIEWER</b>	Andrei Iagaru Stanford University, USA
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	30-Dec-2017

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	This is a proposed study. While interesting, it will be more appropriate for submission when data from patients will be available. The submission will benefit from edits by native English speaker.
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<b>REVIEWER</b>	Sun Wook Kim Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Samsung Medical Center, Seoul, Korea
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	23-Mar-2018

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	This is a well designed and well written study protocol which will have a important clinical message if completed. I have one comment to the authors. Please clarify when you describe the exclusion criteria about "prior treatment with chemotherapy" whether it includes prior chemotherapy including molecular targeted agents or only conventional chemotherapy.
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<b>REVIEWER</b>	Milly Buwenge Bologna University, Italy
<b>REVIEW RETURNED</b>	06-Dec-2017

<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>	I would like to congratulate the authors of this protocol for the high quality of their work
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## VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

### Response to Reviewer #1

*“While interesting, it will be more appropriate for submission when data from patients will be available. The submission will benefit from edits by native English speaker.”*

We have added an estimated time for data availability (page 9, lines 4–6). Additionally, we have had our manuscript re-edited by a professional English language editing service.

### Responses to Reviewer #2

*“Please clarify when you describe the exclusion criteria about "prior treatment with chemotherapy" whether it includes prior chemotherapy including molecular targeted agents or only conventional chemotherapy.”*

We thank the reviewer for pointing out the lack of clarity, and we have now identified the prior treatments (page 8, line 11).

### Responses to Reviewer #3

*“I would like to congratulate the authors of this protocol for the high quality of their work.”*

We thank the reviewer for his or her kind words.

### Editorial Requests

1. *“- Please revise your title so that it includes your study design. This is the preferred format for the journal. The study design should also be a lot clearer throughout the manuscript. “*

*“- Please carefully proofread your manuscript before submitting the revision e.g. in the title: "a protocol study" should be "a study protocol"”*

As requested, we have modified the title to state “a study protocol” (page 1, line 3). Additionally, our manuscript has been re-checked by a professional English language editing service.

2. *“- Please revise the ethics and dissemination section of the abstract to provide information about ethics approval, as requested in our instructions for authors for study protocols. “*

We have added information regarding ethics approval in the Ethics and Dissemination section of the abstract (page 4, lines 3–8).

3. *“- Can you please expand the strengths and limitations section after the abstract? Can the strengths relate to the methods/ design of the study? “*

As the editor recommended, we have expanded the strengths and limitations section (page 5, lines 4-8).

4. *“-Please state the specific name of the ethics committee that approved the study along with the approval ID number in the 'ethics and dissemination' sections of the manuscript.”*

We have added detailed information about the ethics approval, including the committee approval number (page 4, lines 3–5).

5. *“- Along with your revised manuscript, please provide a completed copy of the SPIRIT checklist (<http://www.spirit-statement.org/>). “*

We have provided a copy of the SPIRIT checklist as requested.