Reviewer’s report

Title: Gynecomastia during imatinib mesylate treatment for gastrointestinal tumor: a rare adverse event

Version: 1 Date: 6 July 2011

Reviewer: Philippe Cassier

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions: None
Minor essential revisions:
Overall the article is clearly presented and the level of English is acceptable although authors should consider rephrasing some sentences. For example p4, in the result section “Blood samples taken randomly from six patients who do not have gynecomastia…” should be rephrased as “Blood samples taken from six randomly selected patients who did not have gynecomastia…”

The author state in their introduction that gynecomastia is a rare event in patients treated with imatinib mesylate which is in line with the reviewer’s personal experience, although as it is rarely symptomatic it may be underreported. However, in the material and methods and result section it appears that 6 of 57 (10%!!!) had such an event therefore making it a very frequent side effect, especially considering that all patients apparently complained about their gynecomastia being painful. Please discuss hypotheses possibly explaining this difference between expected and observed frequency.

As the authors underline in their discussion, other medications are known to cause gynecomastia, it is therefore essential that the authors a list of concurrent medications taken by their patients.

Discretionary revisions: None

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have received honoraria from Novartis