Reviewer's report

**Title:** Phase I Study of Miriplatin combined with Transarterial Chemotherapy using CDDP powder in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 11 June 2012

**Reviewer:** Joerg F. Schlaak

**Reviewer's report:**

Kamimura and coworkers have conducted a phase I dose-escalating study using transarterial chemotherapy that utilized CDDP powder (DDP-H) in combination with miriplatin for the treatment of unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). In their cohort of 9 patients no dose-limiting toxicity was observed. A partial response was obtained in 1 patient while four showed stable disease.

Several major points need to be addressed:

In the abstract a disease control rate of 40% is reported while in table 3 this number ranged between 50% and 66%. This should be clarified.

In the patients selection criteria it is stated that “no other therapeutic treatment was found to be effective” while the minimal interval to the previous treatment was only 4 weeks. Apparently, 8 out of 9 patients had received CDDP therapy before where a 4-week interval is certainly too short to convincingly assess disease progression. Thus, the authors should state the interval to the previous therapy for each patient and clarify the individual treatment history.

The introduction is far too lengthy and should be more focused on the literature that is available on the subject.

In figure 2 tumor marker levels are shown for each dosing group. It would be more informative, however, if individual levels were shown possibly arranged according to radiological response.

The manuscript needs the thorough attention of a native speaker.

**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 declare that I have no competing interests