Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 17 June 2012

Reviewer: Arndt Vogel

Reviewer's report:

Kamimura performed a phase 1 study to determine the maximum tolerated dose and dose-limiting toxicity for the combination of transarterial oily chemoembolization and transarterial chemotherapy using miriplatin and cisplatin in patients with advanced HCC. Patients first received a transarterial chemotherapy with increasing doses of cisplatin through the hepatic artery followed by a transarterial oily chemoembolization with miriplatin. Nine patients were enrolled and no DLT was observed with any dose of cisplatin and miriplatin suggesting that this combination can be safely administered. In some patients, which all have received previous therapies, a disease stabilization was possible. Overall, the results are clearly presented and the manuscript is well written. Previous studies from Japan have already compared the efficacy of miriplatin with cisplatin and observed a comparable short-term efficacy, but slightly better tolerability for miriplatin. The study presented here indicates that both drugs can also be safely administered together, which might lead to a better tumor control.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.