Reviewer's report

Title: Bevacizumab plus irinotecan improves both response and survival in patients with recurrent malignant glioma: a survival gain analysis

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Reviewer: Jeffrey Raizer

Reviewer's report:

Xu et al. submit a manuscript on the survival gain of bevacizumab and irinotecan. The statistical analysis showing a survival gain is of interest and should be the main aspect of this manuscript.

This interesting analysis aside the manuscript is too long and should be condensed to a brief report. The authors appears to want to use this analysis to show the a survival gain and A+I, but much of what is provides is a review of the literature.

Major comments:

1) Analysis should compare only recurrent malignant gliomas as that is the basis of the papers on A + I.
2) For comparative data, use only data extracted from malignant gliomas, not low grade, not newly diagnosed.
3) For response rates, what are those for recurrent GBM.
4) Would eliminate studies of children.
5) Focus on the 10 studies used for meta-analysis.
6) Discussion is excessively long and is more a review of literature with diluting the analysis at hand.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

None