Reviewer’s report

Title: Carmustine (BCNU) for recurrent glioblastoma multiforme: efficacy, toxicity and prognostic factors

Version: 2 Date: 6 May 2009

Reviewer: Antonio Silvani

Reviewer’s report:

The paper reports a retrospective study using BCNU on recurrent malignant gliomas.

It is the first report of rescue treatment by BCNU in temozolomide era and for this have some interest

Unfortunately, the population study is very heterogeneous as: tumor history and previous treatments.

The statistical plan, with limitations do to the small sample, is adequate

The results are definitely dismal in comparison with new therapies (BVC, dose dense TMZ) and also fotemustine

Furthemore if the reported PFS is very small, the problem of pseudoprogression is not discussed in the paper

In the paragraph of side effects: How many BCNU cycles have been administered in the patient that developed lung fibrosis?

In the paragraph ;”conclusions” it is not clear why this treatment (potentially more toxic) could be considered in older patients and in low performance patients.

A comment about the strategy of drugs combination for the problem of MGMT mediated chemoresistance is needed

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:

'I declare that I have no competing interests' below