Reviewer's report

Title: The use of chemotherapy regimens carrying a moderate-to-high risk of febrile neutropenia and the corresponding management of febrile neutropenia: an expert survey in breast cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

Version: 1 Date: 13 July 2010

Reviewer: David H Henry

Reviewer's report:

The strength of the study is that the FN risk in breast cancer patients in the first cycle was 31% and 48% in NHL patients, much higher than reported in clinical trials using these regimens in these patients. You also point out that the downstream consequences of FN without prophylactic growth factor are quite significant requiring more and longer hospitalizations and IV antibiotics, which is also quite important.

The negative aspects of the study are that it is a small sample size and retrospective and that the number of tables and charts is way too many. There is a wealth of data here, but the retrospective small sample could introduce significant bias and to give so much detail leads to a “torturing” of the data.

Your conclusions are reasonable given the fact that you mention the potential for bias with the relatively small sample size. You should consider significant reduction in numbers of tables and charts which a relatively too many given this small sample size.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'