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: 1 September 2010

Reviewer: Ruth Pettengell

Reviewer’s report:

The paper describes a retrospective audit of neutropenic related events in over a 6 month period in 2007. The number of NHL patients included in particular is small.

Major Revisions:

Belgium has participated both in European retrospective and prospective studies of FN in both breast cancer and NHL (Papers referenced and also in Bosley et al 2008 Ann Hematol and Doorduijn JK et al. Blood 96:133a (abstract 575). Some of these papers are already listed in the references. This audit data should be discussed in the clinical context of this previous work in Belgium and Europe in the discussion. All inaccurate broad spectrum statement such as in the background must be removed.

That the data is retrospective covering a 6 month period should be detailed in the abstract.

was any attempt made to analyses patient comorbidities, or individual risk factors to help define risk or explain the high FN rates.

The use of the term of moderate to high risk is misleading and should be amended to moderate and high risk regimens.

For Health commissioners to change practice and fund primary prophylaxis for these patients there must have been some more detailed Health economic data or cost analysis performed. It would be of interest to include this.

The discussion needs to rewritten in the context of the literature and not just repeat the results.

Minor Revisions:

P 11 the last sentence of ‘G-CSF in FN prophylaxis (BCC) is unclear, also the paragraph on 'real life recurrence' is unclear.

What does ‘cycle suppression' mean?

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