Reviewer's report

Title: Neoadjuvant imatinib in patients with locally advanced non metastatic GIST in the prospective BFR14 trial

Version: 1 Date: 17 November 2010

Reviewer: Karl Bilimoria

Reviewer's report:

It is a very small study but documents an experience with neoadjuvant therapy for locally advanced GIST. There is clearly a selection bias in patients who were selected to undergo surgery after a trial of primary imatinib. Thus, the survival comparisons in the paper should be downplayed. Patients selected to undergo resection should definitely have better outcomes. Comments such as in the abstract Conclusion that neoadjuvant therapy "enabled" resection are an overstatement of the results. All that can be said is that 9 of 25 patients were selected to undergo resection. There is a typographical error in the column heading in Table 1 - should be "non-operated"?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests