Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 22 November 2010

Reviewer: Daniel Abbott

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. I think it is critical that the authors comment on how the decision to operate on these nine subjects was made. Was it based on surgeon review of re-staging, patient interest, oncologist insistence, . . . ?

2. In the second paragraph pf the discussion, the second sentence states that primary medical management allowed complete resection in 9/25 patients. Based on the earlier description of operated patients, 1/9 had an R1 resection and 1/9 had an R2 resection. It seems that the claim of 'complete resection' is over-reaching.

Minor Essential Revisions:

3. In the second paragraph of the introduction, there needs to be a correction to the sentence that begins with "This led to investigate. . . " It currently is missing a word or two.

4. The last paragraph of the 'Results' section would be more appropriate in 'Discussion'. It begins to explain the results.

Discretionary Revisions:

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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