Reviewer's report

Title: Increased financial burden among patients with chronic myelogenous leukaemia receiving imatinib in Japan: A retrospective survey

Version: 2 Date: 18 February 2012

Reviewer: Anne Mason

Reviewer's report:

The authors have attempted to address each of my previous comments these are mostly satisfactory. There is scope for improving the presentation of the new material - for instance, the abstract now reads a bit like a shopping list!

Major Compulsory Revisions

There are two outstanding issues that make the paper unsuitable for publication in its current form:

1. Language

Although the authors state that "The revised manuscript was carefully revised by the native, professional speaker" this is not apparent from reading the manuscript. It's not clear where the language revisions have been made and some phrases cannot have been checked, e.g.:

The patients who were treated with imatinib in 2000 received the medicine by clinical trial or imported it under physicians' advice.(p 8)

From the patient perspectives, approximately 90% of the reasons to consider discontinuation of imatinib was their financial issues... (p13)

2. Statistics

I previously noted that the authors needed to explain the odds ratios for those without a statistical background. I hinted how this should be done. The authors have added some text but do not show that they understand how to interpret the ratios (i.e. they don't refer to the confidence intervals). This is a cause for concern, and I now strongly recommend that the methodology should be reviewed by a statistician.

Minor Essential Revisions

Figures: I find the Venn diagrams in Fig. 1 difficult to follow and I think bar charts would be much clearer. The box and whisker plots are very striking.

Discretionary Revisions

None
**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:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests