Reviewer's report

Title: A retrospective study of neoadjuvant FOLFIRINOX in unresectable or borderline-resectable locally advanced pancreatic adenocarcinoma

Version: 1 Date: 2 January 2012

Reviewer: Thierry T Conroy

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major compulsory revisions:
- Toxicities in the biliary stent group should be reported separately and discussed.
- Bilirubine levels (with the range) before the first course of chemotherapy should be reported because irinotecan has a biliary elimination and high levels of bilirubine may explain observed toxicities.
- Results in unresectable group and borderline resectable group should be reported separately.

Minor Essential Revisions:
- The median number of cycles to achieve a response should be reported.
- In the abstract, Folfirinox was demonstrated superior to gemcitabine in patients with metastatic pancreatic cancer (not "advanced pancreatic cancer").
- What kind of stent was used: metallic? plastic? Was the drainage sufficient?

Discretionary revisions:
- It could be interesting to know if any case with an abutment of the SMA or celiac trunk encased was resectable after neoadjuvant treatment.
- References 5, 6, 8 should be precised.

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