Reviewer’s report

Title: A Phase II Study of Pulse Dose Imatinib Mesylate and Weekly Paclitaxel in Patients Aged 70 and Over with Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

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Reviewer: Dragan Damianovich

Reviewer’s report:

The scientific question well described and based on valid preclinical studies.

Abstract: I suggest changing the conclusion. Needs clear statement about the inactivity of the regimen, since pre-planned RR considered worthy of further study (35%) not met and limited PFS and OS benefit when historically compared to the existing data on single agent weekly paclitaxel.

Background: Well written and scientific rational clear.

Methods: Exploratory analysis of correlation between PDGF-B and outcomes not described in the methods?

Results: Tabulation error (fatigue) in Table 2. Data about frequency of rash not presented in Table 2. mPFS and mOS not numerically shown on the axis (Figure 1). Would be worthwhile showing the PFS curve (according to VES-13) in Figure 3 as well, since the strongest conclusion about the use of VES-13 frailty scores in future studies.

Discussion: Well conducted. Happy with the conclusions, although not sure whether I would use the word “promising” if the regimen is not recommended for further studying.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no financial or non-financial competing interests.