Reviewer’s report

Title: Androgenic suppression combined with radiotherapy for the treatment of prostate adenocarcinoma: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 14 October 2011

Reviewer: Marco De Velasco

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have provided a well-written systematic review of androgenic suppression combined with radiotherapy for prostate cancer. There is great value in the prospect for the use of the combined modalities to treat locally advanced disease that is evident by the number of ongoing clinical trials currently underway. The meta-analysis provided by the authors is consistent with the observations made by others.

There are no major revisions needed, however, the reviewer requests the following major compulsory revisions:

1. The authors should include the reasons for exclusion in Figure 1.
2. This meta-analysis represents the statistical examination of select published studies and should not draw conclusions that need to be concluded by evidence based science. Therefore, the reviewer suggests that the conclusion should be re-written to exclude statement that goserelin “should be considered standard treatment for those with higher risk of relapse”. Rather the authors should state that this report reinforces the need for a large prospective analysis of that focuses on locally advanced prostate and the effectiveness, toxicity and QOL of combined goserelin (or other LHRH analogues with or without anti-androgens) and radiotherapy. Until then it should be included as an option for the individual patient to consider.
3. There is a discrepancy in the number of patients reported in the D’Amico 2008 study reported in this manuscript and those in the published report. This also represents a discrepancy in the total number of patients.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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