Reviewer's report

Title: Survival of Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor Patients in the Imatinib era: Life Raft Group Observational Registry

Version: 1 Date: 27 September 2011

Reviewer: Patrick Schoffski

Reviewer's report:

The question posed by the authors are well defined.
The methods are adequate and well described.
The data are sound.
The manuscript adheres to relevant standards.
The discussion is well balanced.
The limitations of the work are clearly stated.
The authors acknowledge cited work adequately.
Title and abstract are adequately covering what the authors found.
The writing is excellent

Minor comments:
- Avoid abbreviations in the abstract, or at least define them once.
- Mention involvement of an ethics committee in this project, if applicable. Has this ever been reviewed by an independent body?
- Introduction is a bit lengthy and could be shortened significantly.
- How can two out of three diagnoses be a "triad"?
- Authors should mention how date of death was retrieved, as the dataset is based on self-reported patient questionnaires
- The low frequency of mutational analysis in these >1000 patients should be discussed in more detail.
- It should be made more clear that a proportion of the >1000 patients participated in clinical trials as well (see second sentence in discussion)
- When discussing the outcome of the Carney’s patients, it should be made clear that their relatively long survival might not be an effect of imatinib treatment, but the spontaneous natural course of this subtype of GIST
- The discussion of the potential sources of bias in this analysis is excellent!
- The list of abbreviations on page 11 is very incomplete
- The Joenssu ASCO 2011 presentation is not cited well in the reference list

Major:
No major comments

**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.