**Reviewer's report**

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

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 22 October 2011

**Reviewer:** Piotr Rutkowski

**Reviewer's report:**

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Although I appreciate the efforts of authors, the reliability of data is poor. The analyzed group of patients is very heterogenous, mixed – it combines the patients with primary, localized disease (minority of patients!!!) and metastatic cases. Generally, this study has not provided any more information beyond already known – some series from major clinical trials or collected group of patients have already been published (B2222, Joensuu’s group; Rutkowski et al. Cancer 2011 etc.)

2. Are any data about adjuvant therapy after primary treatment are available?

3. Non metastatic disease means locally advanced cases treated with imatinib and primarily operable cases – these two groups have different prognosis.

4. Mutational status was known in only one forth of cases in random way, what may impact on final results.

5. Lack of age or date of diagnosis in some cases.

6. Low, intermediate (approx. 50% of cases) and high confidence of data is very arbitrary and this reporting may have influence the survival analysis (the same for other data, which are estimated and arbitrary allocated to the appropriate group).

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.