Reviewer’s report

Title: Outcome of patients with advanced solitary fibrous tumors: the Centre Leon Berard experience.

Version: 1 Date: 7 December 2012

Reviewer: Francois Bertucci

Reviewer’s report:

An interesting, original and rare study, well designed and written, which deserves publication in BMC Cancer.

Minor Essential Revisions

Abstract
- Write “Results” in bold
- “Patients and methods” is written two times
- Indicate the number and percentage of patients progression-free for more than 6 months after chemotherapy
- Last sentence: delete “with frequently described”

Introduction
- replace “identify” by “identifies”

Patients and methods
- precise death from SFT or any cause
- Mention the statistical tests and the algorithm used, the threshold of significance for p-value

Results
- first section:
  o “seventeen patients had metastatic disease”: when? At diagnosis or during follow-up?
  o Overall survival is mentioned, but precise “median”. Could you mention the follow-up?
- Second section
  o Indicate at the beginning of the section that 23/30 received chemotherapy as first-line treatment. Then, keep the description of the 7 other patients.
- Third section
  o Replace “summarized” by “indicated”
  o Toxicities should be written with the grade before: for example, “grade 4 neutropenia” rather than “neutropenia grade 4”
- Fifth section
  o "at 8.0 (pazopanib), 14.0 (pazopanib), 29.5 and 29.9 months (sunitinib)" should be written “at 8.0 and 14.0 months (pazopanib), and 29.5 and 29.9 months (sunitinib)”.

Discussion
  - replace “appear” by “appears”
  - replace “doxorubicin regimen” by “doxorubicin-based regimen”
  - The authors should mention the fact that the median PFS with anti-angiogenic agents delivered in 2nd, 3rd or 4th lines (5.1 months) is close to that observed with chemotherapy in 1st-line (5.2 months), but seems higher than that observed with chemotherapy in 2nd-line (3.4 months) and 3rd line (4.3 months).

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