Reviewer's report

Title: Early onset recall pneumonitis during targeted therapy with sunitinib

Version: 1 Date: 28 October 2012

Reviewer: Camillo Porta

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The key point of this paper (and, at the same time, its major drawback) is the diagnosis of recall pneumonitis.

As such, Authors should explain in more detail which kind of alternative diagnosis has been considered, on one hand, and how it has been excluded, on the other one. Furthermore, the sequence of hypothesis generation, testing/interventions and dismissal of the hypothesis should be detailed.

Just as an example, Authors stated that they started quite soon a wide-spectrum antibiotic therapy; since it is clear that such an intervention could have led to false negative bacteriological tests, a thoroughful description of the above sequence appears mandatory.

Discretionary Revisions

Authors should speculate a little bit more on the pathogenesis of recall pneumonitis under Sunitinib treatment, also in the light of what is presently known on the impact of TKIs on the immune system, given that a hypersensitivity reaction could be accounted for the rare phenomenon of recall pneumonitis.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 acted as a consultant and/or speaker for Pfizer, GSK, Bayer.Schering, Roche, Novartis, Aveo, Astellas and Boehringer Ingelheim; furthermore I did receive research grants from Bayer-Schering and Novartis.