Author's response to reviews

Title: Budget impact analysis of first-line treatment with pazopanib for advanced renal cell carcinoma in Spain

Authors:

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:

I would like to thank you and the reviewers for your valued contributions to improve and complete our manuscript.

Please, find attached our response to the reviewer’s comments. Note that, for your convenience, all the changes in the tracked version of the new manuscript are highlighted in green.

Should you require further information, please, do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Guillermo Villa, PhD

General comments

Since our manuscript was submitted to BMC Cancer in May 2012, we have updated costs to January 2013 in the current version of the paper. The budget impact is also presented for the next three years (2013, 2014 and 2015).

Editor’s comments

(1) Please include a discussion on how the method can be applied to estimate the impact of this treatment in other countries.

Thank you for your comments. A paragraph has been included in the discussion section on how the method can be applied to other countries.

(2) Competing interests

As acknowledged in the manuscript, both authors are currently employees of GlaxoSmithKline.
Reviewer 1’s comments

(1) The work is very interesting and well done. Deserves publication in its current form.

Thank you for your comments.

Reviewer 2’s comments

(1) This is a well written, clearly designed analysis to examine the impact of first line treatment with pazopanib compared to sunitinib for advanced RCC. The analysis rests on differences in gains in life-expectancy, costs for treatment and side-effects and quality of life. The two sources cited for this analysis are from two different studies. However, since submission of this manuscript, data from the COMPARZ trial ‘COMParing the efficacy, sAfety and toleRability of paZopanib versus sunitinib’ which is funded by GSK (the company which the authors work for) have been published. This trial provides data that directly compares the two drugs modeled, including data on side effects that would improve the validity and relevance of this study. These data should be included and the modeling work updated accordingly and reconsidered for publication.

Thank you for your comments. Reviewer 2 is right. Results from COMPARZ were presented at ESMO 2012 in September. While COMPARZ manuscript has not been published yet, it is expected to be published on-line early in April.

As requested by Reviewer 2, we have updated costs according to COMPARZ results presented at ESMO 2012:
Despite no changes are expected in COMPARZ manuscript from the results presented at ESMO 2012, it is advisable to wait till the trial is published in order to confirm these results and to accomplish with GlaxoSmithKline confidentiality policies.

A brief description of COMPARZ trial has been presented in the introduction section of the new version of the manuscript. Incidences of adverse events and drug exposures have been updated correspondingly in the new version of the manuscript.