Reviewer's report

Title: Activity ex vivo of cytotoxic drugs in patient samples of peri-toneal carcinomatosis with special focus on colorectal cancer

Version: 3 Date: 12 May 2013

Reviewer: Melissa Teo

Reviewer's report:

Minor revisions:
1. It would be preferable if the authors included a table showing how many samples were analyzable for the various histological subtypes, for example, although they treated 52 colorectal cancer patients, they were only to analyse the results for 23 patients. What about the rest of the histological subtypes? Are the conclusions for the non-colorectal cancer cases made based on only a few patients in each group who were analyzable?

2. Why did the authors pick a significantly longer dwell time compared to the actual duration of hipec? This was mentioned in the discussion but no explanation was given on the results with real time.

3. The information on whether the patients had received prior chemotherapy was available. The drug used in the previous chemotherapy would have been important and of interest, as a tolerance to the drug could have developed, explaining the decreased sensitivity to that particular drug.

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:

No