Reviewer's report

Title: Prospective, open, multi-centre phase I/II trial to assess the safety and efficacy of neoadjuvant radiochemotherapy with docetaxel and oxaliplatin in patients with adenocarcinoma of the oesophagogastric junction

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Reviewer: Thomas Ruhstaller

Reviewer's report:

This phase-I/II trial investigated the combination chemotherapy docetaxel and oxaliplatin within a neoadjuvant concept together with radiotherapy. The population was limited to patients with esophago-gastric junction tumors (Siewert II and III).

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
yes, it is well defined study with a correct design

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
As a phase-I trial the focus has to be on the toxicity. This is well described in the trial. However, the design of the trial is limited to the toxicity of the chemotherapy only. But the main problem of the chemoradiotherapy of AEG II/III tumors is the toxicity of the irradiation of the stomach and intestinum. I miss this aspect in the methods (the in the protocol defined fields of the radiotherapy are not even mentioned), in the validation of the side-effects (dose-limiting toxicity: nausea and vomiting, mainly caused by irradiation) and also in the discussion. The comparison with toxicity of trials without radiotherapy should be avoided, because it is something else. Comparisons with trials including all esophageal cancers is also not the same, because a lot of these tumors and the radiotherapy fields s well were in located the mediastinum. Trials with chemoradiotherapy of the cardia or stomach are more useful as comparator for the toxicity.

3. Are the data sound?
Yes, these data are important, particularly because the study is limited to AEG II/III tumors

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
see point 2
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
yes

9. Is the writing acceptable?
yes

Conclusion:
This is an important trial in this field. However, the mentioned problem of the radiotherapy should be assessed with a major revision because it is affecting several chapters in the manuscript.

**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'