Reviewer's report

**Title:** Analysis the impact of platinum-based combination chemotherapy in small cell carcinoma of the cervix: results of a multicenter retrospective china study

**Version:** 3  **Date:** 7 December 2013

**Reviewer:** Gabriella Ferrandina

**Reviewer's report:**

The paper by Dr. Long Huang et al., addresses the issue of the role of platinum based chemotherapy in a rare but aggressive subset of cervical cancer, the small cell carcinoma variant.

This is a large series although other studies have published on the same topic, aims and results in patients enrolled in a short time frame. However, the current paper provides the evaluation of disease-free and overall survival according to different risk factors in univariate and multivariate analysis.

In this context, the relevance of the presented manuscript seems acceptable, although several criticisms have to be raised:

**Compulsory revisions:**

- The iconographic material has to be organized in order to make it more clear: for instance, on Page 4, in “Treatment” paragraph, details about management of stage IIA-IV disease patients should be provided.

- Table 1 would be better replaced a Table summarizing treatment details according to different stage groups (Ia-Ib2 versus IIA-IVA). This would be important in order to make the analysis of eventual association between stage and specific treatments easier. Table 1 shows patients with FGO stage IIIC disease (were they perhaps stage IIIB?). Please, check carefully both Stage and treatment. Why were some stage IIB patients treated with radiation while the so called Stage IIIC patients were triaged to surgery? Treatment approaches show a very large variability.

- Table 2 should also provide data about the pathologic status of pelvic and aortic lymph nodes.

Moreover, more details about clinical issues have to be provided such as: on Page 4, line 23: Was carboplatin used at the dose of 60-75 mg/m2? It seems very low.

**Minor revisions:**

- Abstract: the last statement of Conclusion is unclear. Please, rephrase.

- Methods, page 3 line 30: What do the Authors mean for “…clinical pathology…”?

- Page 4, line 12: “if” should be replaced with “in”.


- Page 5, lines 16,17: this sentence has to be re-phrased.
- Reference section should include and adequately comment the recent paper by Kuji et al (2013).
- A careful revision of typo and grammar errors is required throughout the text.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.