Reviewer’s report

Title: Bevacizumab with 5-fluorouracil, leucovorin, and oxaliplatin versus bevacizumab with capecitabine and oxaliplatin for metastatic colorectal carcinoma: results of a large registry-based cohort analysis

Version: 2 
Date: 30 January 2014

Reviewer: Bruce Giantonio

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have conducted a retrospective analysis of a nationwide, industry supported registry of metastatic colorectal cancer patients who were treated with targeted therapy in the Czech Republic to evaluate outcomes of first line treatment with bevacizumab in combination with either capecitabine and oxaliplatin (XELOX) or FOLFOX. The authors find no meaningful differences between the two groups in terms of outcomes and toxicity, and in parameters associated with outcome. Rather striking are the median survivals of 27 months and 30 months for FOLFOX and CAPOX respectively. The authors correctly conclude that the regimens analyzed are of similar effectiveness.

Despite the limitations of the analysis, which are carefully and thoroughly enumerated in the discussion section, this is a well-designed and executed analysis of a unique dataset. The authors are careful not to overstate their findings, and provide plausible explanations for strength of the overall survival data, as well as limitations on the ability to fully assess toxicity. It is clearly written, utilizes valid statistical methodology appropriate to the type of analysis, and provides a succinct but appropriate review of the extant literature. They are to be congratulated on their work, and I recommend that the manuscript should be accepted without revisions.

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.