Reviewer's report

Title: FOLFOX as second-line chemotherapy in patients with pretreated metastatic pancreatic cancer: results from FIRGEM study

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Reviewer: Erkan Topkan

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Zaanan et al. in their study entitled 'FOLFOX as second-line chemotherapy in patients with pretreated metastatic pancreatic cancer: results from FIRGEM study' investigated the efficacy of FOLFOX regimen as an option in second line chemotherapy (SLCT) of a group of 27 patients failed in phase 2 FIRGEM study. The article is well written and data is presented in a well-balanced manner. However, some important issues need to be remarked;


As the survival outcomes are consistent or even poorer in comparison with aforementioned studies, it appears that these results do not go beyond the available literature and does not add significantly to the available data pool.

2. It is interesting that there were no grade 4 hematological/ non-hematological toxicities in such highly fragile patients group.

3. It may be interesting to learn the reasons for 4 early deaths in absence of grade 4/5 toxicity report, and ineligibility of another patient for response evaluation. Is grade 3 toxicity (probably) a contraindication for response evaluation for the authors?

4. One major concern must be the impact of such therapies on patients’ quality of life measures, however, this issue has unfortunately been missed by the authors

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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