Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of a novel rash scale and a serum proteomic predictor in a randomized phase II trial of sequential or concurrent cetuximab and pemetrexed in previously treated non-small cell lung cancer

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Reviewer: Wan-Teck Lim

Reviewer’s report:

This is already a completed clinical trial and any comments are discretionary. This main thrust of the study attempts to analyse a novel proteomic marker for response to cetuximab. Cetuximab has since been shown to have limited role for NSCLC, and so this data may no longer be relevant. Moreover the proteomic marker appears to mark for disease stability or non-progression rather than response (figure 3) limiting its usefulness in its application.

The merit of this study however are that it demonstrates the possibility of interrogating drug effect in greater detail early on in drug development and determining surrogate markers for response. This may then prove useful in limiting costly attrition in late phase studies.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 I have no competing interests.