Reviewer's report

Title: A phase I study of imatinib, dacarbazine, and capecitabine in advanced endocrine cancers.

Version: 1 Date: 26 May 2014

Reviewer: Michele Kim

Reviewer's report:

The authors report their experience in a Phase 1 study of imatinib, dacarbazine, and capecitabine in patients with advanced endocrine cancers. A 3+3 standard dose-escalation design was used. The paper is well-written and clear. This study provides data for consideration of a Phase II study in patients with advanced endocrine cancers where few options exist.

Major Essential Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
1. It is worth saying that the patients in this study had heterogeneous pathology: i.e., not only ACC and MTC, but also NET, TCC, and melanoma. This is nicely delineated in Table 4, but not in the text.

2. Did all patients have progressive disease at time of inclusion? In addition, if imaging was obtained within a certain time period of study inclusion, please include.

3. Please define extent/stage of disease for included patients. Similarly, if you have data on tumor grade, degree of differentiation, etc, please provide.

4. Please give median followup and survival.

5. In Table 2, please provide total number (n=20) with baseline patient characteristics. In addition, combine the Number and % columns. For example, gender (male) would read "12 (60%)". Also, no need to include female; male alone suffices.

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.