Reviewer’s report

Title: Effect of gastrointestinal resection on sunitinib exposure in patients with GIST

Version: 2 Date: 2 May 2014

Reviewer: Florian F Lordick

Reviewer’s report:

This is a report on a pharmacokinetic study in patients with GIST who had or had not undergone prior gastrectomy (or other GI tract surgery) and had taken sunitinib in the framework of clinical studies. The observations illustrate that major gastrectomy alone does not influence exposure to sunitinib or its active metabolite SU12662. This report is of clinical relevance and will help clinicians to decide if dose modifications of sunitinib in particular subgroups of patients are to be considered or not. I can imagine that this paper will be cited in many textbooks and review articles reporting about drug therapy in advanced GIST.

Major revision: none suggested

Minor revision:

Abstract-Methods: ANCOVA may not be known to the general reader: Should be explained when first appears here in the abstract (“analysis of covariance”).

Page 4: “Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG)” Typo! # “Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG)”

Discussion: would the authors also consider recommending higher than 400mg/d doses of imatinib in patients who had previously undergone major gastrectomy, if there is no evidence of limiting toxicity occurring during the first weeks of standard dose imatinib?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

none