Reviewer's report

Title: The CAIRO4 study: The role of surgery of the primary tumour with few or absent symptoms in patients with synchronous unresectable metastases of colorectal cancer - a randomized phase III study of the Dutch Colorectal Cancer Group (DCCG).

Version: 2 Date: 13 May 2014

Reviewer: Young Wan Kim

Reviewer's report:

Comment: Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to review protocol entitled: The CAIRO4 study: The role of surgery of the primary tumour with few or absent symptoms in patients with synchronous unresectable metastases of colorectal cancer – a randomized phase III study of the Dutch Colorectal Cancer Group (DCCG).
This is already started and well-designed.

1. Will the study design adequately test the hypothesis?
: Yes

2. Are sufficient details provided to allow replication of the work or comparison with related analyses: if not, what is missing?
: This is well-described but I have minor comments.
- The authors should define 'asymptomatic' disease more accurately.
- Who would decide whether the patient is asymptomatic or not.
- Based on what such as physical examination or history taking.
- Who would decide resectability of extracolonic metastasis?
- When to perform colonoscopy before primary surgery or chemotherapy?
- In the sample size, drop rate may be considered.
- In the statistical consideration, log rank is misspelled ("rank").

3. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition: if not, in what ways?
: Yes

4. Is the writing acceptable?
: Yes

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests