Reviewer's report

Title: A randomized multi-center phase II trial of the angiogenesis inhibitor Cilengitide (EMD 121974) and gemcitabine compared with gemcitabine alone in advanced unresectable pancreatic cancer [ISRCTN13413322]

Version: 3 Date: 25 September 2006

Reviewer: Andrew R Willan

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

It must be made clearer that the paper is merely a report of the results of a trial for which no inference was planned. No conclusions regarding the observed results should be made, neither in the abstract nor the body of the paper. The “conclusions” given in the current version are merely observations. This is inappropriate. Also, much of the discussion section is merely a repeat of the observations. This is not necessary. A better use for this section would be to compare the results with other data.

In the results sections when reporting no differences, it must be stated that there were no observed difference. To write that there were no difference could be interpreted as a conclusion.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.