Reviewer's report

Title: Docetaxel Weekly Chemotherapy In Conjunction With Regional Hyperthermia For Pretreated Locally Advanced Non-small Cell Lung Cancer, a Preliminary Study

Version: 1 Date: 26 July 2007

Reviewer: Steven Schild

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)

1. pg 4: The authors state that standard 1st line treatment for inoperable locally advanced NSCLC is platinium containing chemotherapy. However, they should have said that the standard of care is Radiation Therapy plus platinum containing chemotherapy.

2. Only 11/29 patients recieved prior radiotherapy and thus, the majority (16/29) appear to have been treated with less than standard therapy. This is odd and not explained in the manuscript.

3. Pg. 6: It appears that the consent form was approved by the IRB but what about the protocol?

4. Discussion: 11 mo appears impressive for OS of patients who have failed previous therapy. However, the authors need to include data from other studies of systemic therapy alone for second line therapy to compare with their own data to clarify a possible advantage to this approach of hyperthermia plus chemotherapy as opposed to chemotherapy alone (which is standard 2nd line treatment).

5. Discussion: The authors recommend another phase II trial but I don't understand why they don't recommend a phase 3 trial of second line chemotherapy vs. chemotherapy plus hyperthermia?

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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)

English is the 2nd language of the authors and the journal editorial staff should review and correct grammatical issues.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests or conflicts of interest in the fair review of this manuscript