Reviewer's report

Title: Osteoblastic flare in a patient with advanced gastric cancer after treatment with pemetrexed and oxaliplatin: implications for response assessment with RECIST criteria.

Version: 1 Date: 11 March 2007

Reviewer: Dirk Arnold

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a single case report, focussing on an interesting single observation. Although the finding might be relevant, the conclusions drawn should be stated more carefully - unless the authors have other data from more patients and/or other tumour types and/or chemotherapy regimen. The manuscript would be much better if the authors could underlie their hypothesis that the phenomenon observed is related to the disease with other confounding results, e.g. radiographic findings, scintigraphy, serum calcium levels.

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

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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)

Do the authors related the phenomenon observed to the (experimental, non-standard) therapy or do they expect it to be independent of the regimen?

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

"The main goal of phase II trials...", as in Discussion: The authors stated that ORR is primary goal of phase II trial. To be more precise, the main goal of phase II trials (and the only relevant aim) is always to exclude non-efficacy, e.g. in terms of non-achieving a predefined "ORR of clinical interest".

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 declare that I have no competing interests.