Reviewer's report

**Title:** Modified FOLFOX-6 chemotherapy in advanced gastric cancer: Results of phase II study and comprehensive analysis of polymorphisms as a predictive and prognostic marker

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 27 August 2007

**Reviewer:** Salah-Eddin Al-Batran

**Reviewer's report:**

**General**

The authors report the results of a phase II trial in patients receiving modified FOLFOX6 for advanced gastric cancer. In addition, pharmacogenetic investigations were performed.

During the last 6 years, FOLFOX6, FOLFOX4, and several of their modifications were used for gastric cancer and were also published. Thus, the results presented in this study do not add significantly to the knowledge already existing. The Pharmacogenetic results may be of significant value, but the study is, as I understood from the paper, primarily clinical.

The study rational and the study methodology contain some limitations, e.g. the statistical hypothesis is very difficult to understand and must be changed.

There are also many incoherencies that deserve the attention of the authors in the results, e.g. the rate of G3 neuropathy was 1.4%. This is much lower than the rates observed in other studies using Oxaliplatin at 100mg/m2; e.g. Louvet et al. reported 21% G3 neuropathy with a similar schedule. Also the rates of nausea, vomiting, hepatic enzymes and others are not in line with results published previously. The authors should discuss all these issues.

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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)

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**Discretionary Revisions** (which the author can choose to ignore)

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**What next?:** Reject because scientifically unsound
**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

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

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests