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: 2 Date: 4 March 2008

Reviewer: Manuel Perucho

Reviewer’s report:

The revised paper seems now publishable.

Small revisions:

1. ECOG performance (pg 5 and table 2) should be defined for the audience not familiar with the terms.

2. In page 7, ER should be changed for "enhancer region". The abbreviation is not necessary as it is mentioned only once. And it is difficult to remember the definition given at the beginning of the paper.

3. The conclusion that the chemotherapy protocol was "highly active" (pg. 8) and "highly effective" (pg. 11) should be toned down, as the response was relatively modest.

4. English still needs improvement. There are many incorrect or confused sentences.

For instance, in the Discussion, the sentence

"...while the results of other study conducted in Asian country [35] were concordant with our data",

should be changed to

"...while our results are concordant with those of another study conducted in an Asian country”.

Similarly, "Contradictory, ...") (pg 10) should be replaced by "In contrast, ..."

"These would be considered when interpretate predictive values of TS polymorphism" (pg 10)

should be changed to
"these experimental variables should be considered when interpreting predictive values of the TS polymorphism".

"Another considerable fact is the combined drug with 5-FU" (next sentence in pg. 10)

should be changed to something like

"Another fact to be taken into consideration is the possible impact on outcome of other drugs combined with 5-FU"...

Two sentences down,

"This would make the meaningful polymorphism in single agent less significant in combination regimens"

needs to be improved:

"This would make the meaningful polymorphism in a single agent protocol less significant in combination regimens".

In next page (11), the sentence

"In terms of 28-bp repeat polymorphism, loss of the heterozygosity at the TS locus could occur in the genotype from a tumor tissue, in comparison with the genotype from a normal mucosal tissue [44]"

is confusing. It should be better

"In terms of the 28-bp repeat polymorphism, tumor-specific loss of the heterozygosity at the TS locus has been reported [44]."

"purely homogeneous" (pg 11) is redundant. Better "considerably homogeneous".