Reviewer's report

Title: TP53 status and taxane-platinum versus platinum-based therapy in ovarian cancer patients: a non-randomized retrospective study.

Version: 1 Date: 8 August 2007

Reviewer: gabriella ferrandina

Reviewer's report:

General
The manuscript by Kupryjanczyk et al., addresses the issue of the relation between TP53 status and the effectiveness of platinum-based versus platinum/paclitaxel based treatment in ovarian cancer. This issue has been already addressed in the literature; therefore the main strength of the paper is represented by the size of the sample series. The presentation of the results should be improved, and a more complete discussion of the data of the literature provided.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
-page 6, lines 14-19: additional, novel mechanisms supporting paclitaxel sensitivity/resistance should be mentioned, such as beta-tubulin mutation or overexpression of specific beta-tubulin isoforms. (see Mozzetti et al., 2005; Ferlini et al. 2005).
-page 8, lines 9-11: as expected, patients enrolled between the years 1990-1999 received PC/PAC while the majority of patients from TP group were treated during the years 2000-2005. It is conceivable that surgical efforts, and skills could also differ across the years.
-page 9, line 10: authors should justify the use of PAB 1801 Ab compared other available antibodies.
-page 9, lines 20-22: the authors should justify the choice of the cut-off value of 10% to define TP53 positivity.
-How did the authors calculate the percentage of complete response in patients left with apparently absent residual tumor at time of first surgery?
-possible explanation of the higher benefit of TP versus PC/PAC treatment only in the subgroup of patients >53 yrs should be provided.
-page 15, lines 9-11: this sentence is not clear and should be re-written.
-page 15, lines 12-16: no attempts have been made to provide explanations for the higher benefit of TP therapy in patients with bulky residual disease.

Since the main conclusion is the higher effectiveness of TP versus platinum-based treatment in p53 positive cases, the presentation of the OS curve
according to TP53 status would be helpful.
-“Conclusions”: given the relatively small sample series after analyzing different subgroups, less emphasis should be given to the potential impact of these results.

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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)

**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:** 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