Reviewer's report

Title: The 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A reductase inhibitors, simvastatin, lovastatin and mevastatin inhibit proliferation and invasion of melanoma cells.

Version: 1 Date: 9 August 2007

Reviewer: Robert Dellavalle

Reviewer's report:

General


Given the poor prognosis of advanced melanoma patients I agree with the call to investigate the effects of adding high dose statins with current chemotherapy. This further research however should start with in vitro work showing synergistic killing of melanoma cell lines by the combination of statins and chemotherapy, proceed to in vitro animal studies showing increased efficacy due to the combination, and be followed by Phase I studies showing no undue toxicity due to the addition of high dose statins to chemotherapy in humans before proceeding to a definitive RCT for efficacy.

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

1. A major recent paper on statins and melanoma risk has been omitted:

2. Given the poor prognosis of advanced melanoma patients I agree with the call to investigate the effects of adding high dose statins with current chemotherapy. The authors should discuss whether this further research should start with in vitro work showing synergistic killing of melanoma cell lines by the combination of statins and chemotherapy, proceed to in vitro animal studies showing increased efficacy due to the combination, and be followed by Phase I studies showing no undue toxicity due to the addition of high dose statins to chemotherapy in humans before proceeding to a definitive RCT for efficacy.
Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

1. Atorvastatin Research Award (100K) recipient, peer reviewed independently awarded grant funded by Pfizer pharmaceuticals.

2. Own 100 shares Merck common stock in a retirement account purchased >10 years ago.