Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of age, leukocyte count and day 21-bone marrow response to chemotherapy on long term outcome of children with Philadelphia Chromosome-Positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in the pre-Imatinib era: results of the FRALLE 93 study

Version: 1 Date: 6 October 2008

Reviewer: John Doyle

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1) clearly indicate which analyses are performed using the entire cohort and which are performed using only the 26 that entered remission with initial therapy
2) include a table or discussion that indicates the outcomes for different treatment groups (chemotherapy only vs BMT and autologous vs related donor (matched vs mismatched) vs unrelated donor)
3) include some discussion of your statistical methods

Minor essential revisions:
1) occasionally state table 1 when you appear to mean table 2 -- please review all table references

Discretionary revisions:
1) reorganize introduction -- sentence 4 should follow sentence 1 (remove the words “Anyway” and “still” from sentence 4 – remove “also” from sentence 5 – start a new paragraph with sentence 6

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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:

No competing interests