Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 27 November 2008

Reviewer: Vaskar Saha

Reviewer's report:

The article is much clearer now. I have only two points to note. Page 10, the first paragraph. Initially, they state that 14 children had favourable characteristics and 22 did not. They then continue to state that similar numbers of patients were transplanted in CR1 in both groups, but now the numbers are 14 in one group and 10 in the other. These groups are not identifiable by the reader as presented and causes confusion interpretation. I would suggest that this sentence ("Similar numbers of children from.....prognostic markers") is deleted. This does not affect the conclusions and will not confuse the reader.

It is customary in K-M curves to provide the numbers of patients at each time point.

These are discretionary revisions