Reviewer's report

Title: Inflammatory (B) symptoms are independent predictors of myelosuppression from chemotherapy in Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL) patients - analysis of data from a British National Lymphoma Institute phase III trial comparing CHOP to PMitCEBO.

Version: 1 Date: 19 December 2008

Reviewer: Donald C McMillan

Reviewer's report:

The present study uses an indirect approach to address the hypothesis that systemic inflammation predicts response to chemotherapy. By not making direct measurements of this means that much of the introduction and discussion is taken up with linking inflammatory symptoms with systemic inflammation and leucopenia with treatment related toxicity. Therefore, although the study is large, well described and well carried out the results are of limited value. As a consequence much of the discussion is speculative and the concluding paragraph has nothing to do with the study. I would suggest that the report is shortened and the authors avoid speculative statements

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests