Reviewer's report

Title: Neoadjuvant chemotherapy or primary surgery for stage III/IV ovarian cancer: contribution of diagnostic laparoscopy.

Version: 5 Date: 27 January 2009

Reviewer: Peter Rose

Reviewer's report:

This study presents retrospective data about primary cytoreduction or neoadjuvant chemotherapy and interval cytoreduction for suspected ovarian cancer patients treated initial laparoscopy by either gynecologic oncologists or general gynecologists. The number of patients with advanced ovarian cancer seen at the institution (72 over 6 years) is small consistent with a low volume non-specialty department. The patients treated by gynecologic oncologists have a 100% complete cytoreduction rate at primary surgery and the authors tell us that these patients have a median survival of 50 months compared to 27 months if complete cytoreduction was achieved at interval debulking surgery. Is there a p value for patients with no residual disease following primary and interval cytoreduction? The manuscript does not tell us what percent of patients were treated by a gynecologic oncologists or general gynecologist and this need to be included.

Page 12 line 19: replace carcinosis with carcinomatosis.

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 I have no competing interests