Reviewer's report

Title: Anticancer activity of an extract from needles and twigs of Taxus cuspidata and its synergistic effect as a cocktail with 5-fluorouracil

Version: 1 Date: 15 August 2011

Reviewer: Pratibha Nerurkar

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study where the authors have tested the chemotherapeutic potential of Taxus cuspidata (TC) extracts prepared from needles and twigs and its combined effects with 5-fluorouracil (5-FU). It is a well written manuscript and conclusions are supported by the data presented.

The manuscript can be further strengthened by addressing the following points:

Major compulsory revisions

1. Page 8 – Pharmacokinetic study - Provide details as to how the blood was drawn at the time points indicated. Were it drawn from the same rats?
2. Justify the dosages of TC tested in the study.
3. page 13-last paragraph, “The side effects of anticancer agents are a serious problem in cancer chemotherapy------” – the authors should cite specific examples with references
4. page 14, conclusions-line 5 – therap should be therapy
5. Titles for figure legend # 6 and 7 should be shortened. Information can be added to the legend.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests