Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical outcome of metastatic colorectal cancer (MCRC) patients treated with intensive triplet chemotherapy plus bevacizumab (FIR-B/FOX) according to KRAS genotype and disease extension

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Reviewer: Gianluca Masi

Reviewer's report:

This is a retrospective, exploratory analysis evaluating the outcome of metastatic colorectal cancer patients treated in first-line with FIR-B/FOX regimen according to disease extension and KRAS status.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Overall evaluation: the authors should stress the retrospective and exploratory value of this analysis and they should better explain the limits of the observed data. Indeed the small sample of patients analysed do not allow to draw any conclusion about the question (different outcome achieved from the treatment by KRAS WT patients with liver limited disease).

Abstract: Methods should report main patients' selection criteria and treatment schedule. Results: this section is almost unreadable because it is too full of numbers, authors should focalize the main message to do to readers.

Conclusions: the sentence “FIR-B/FOX regimen can increase activity and efficacy of KRAS WT and mutant MCRC patients” should be removed. Indeed this is not a randomized, comparative trial and therefore there is not a reference arm with which results can be compared. The present analysis can only suggest that KRAS WT patients with liver limited disease could achieve a greater benefit from the treatment with respect to KRAS MUT patients.

Background: the authors should better explain the possible prognostic role of KRAS status, independently from its predictive role.

Methods: Study design: this section do not clarify the design of the reported analysis (hypothesis? statistics?).

Results: Patients' demographics: authors should better clarify why there are 31 KRAS WT patients, among the 32 patients analyzed for BRAF there are not mutated patients and finally only 18 patients are KRAS and BRAF WT (?).

Discussion: the sentence “a significant interaction was demonstrated between ...” should be removed because this assertion imply that a formal comparison and an interaction test was performed, but this is not applicable to the reported analysis.

Conclusion: the sentence “FIR-B/FOX regimen can increase activity and efficacy of KRAS WT and mutant MCRC patients” should be removed. Indeed this is not a randomized, comparative trial and therefore there is not a reference arm with
which results can be compared. The present analysis can only suggest that KRAS WT patients with liver limited disease could achieve a greater benefit from the treatment with respect to KRAS MUT patients.

Figures: the figures that I could download are of poor quality

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.