Reviewer's report

Title: Phase II study of two dose schedules of C.E.R.A. (Continuous Erythropoietin Receptor Activator) in anemic patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) receiving chemotherapy

Version: 1 Date: 26 September 2006

Reviewer: Tim J Littlewood

Reviewer’s report:

General

An interesting report on the use of CERA in anemic patients with non-small cell lung cancer. The study was well-designed and written.
The results are disappointing with a Hb response (the main criteria used in most previous studies of erythropoietic agents in patients with cancer) of only around 50% of what might normally be expected, even at the highest dose schedule used in this study. It would seem that the CERA dose will need to be reassessed, at least for similar patients in future studies.
The authors do comment on some reasons for the poor response. Could they also comment on the frequency of iron supplementation and whether oral or intra-venous iron was used.
This is an important early study with this new compund. I think there will be interest in the data and disappointment with the response achieved. Well worthy of publication.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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