Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficacy of bevacizumab and chemotherapy in the first-line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer: broadening KRAS-focused clinical view

Version: 2 Date: 26 December 2014

Reviewer: Yi Ba

Reviewer’s report:

Discretionary Revisions

1. Previous evidence has shown that there is no association between KRAS status and efficacy of bevacizumab in mCRC, but most of them were based on subgroup analysis of phase III trials. The present manuscript is a large-scale retrospective study that evaluated the prognostic and predictive value of KRAS status in mCRC patients treated with bevacizumab plus chemotherapy which is widely used in clinical practice.

2. In this paper, the investigators defined KRAS mutation only in mutations on exon 2, more evidence suggested RAS status including KRAS (both exon 2 and non-exon 2) and NRAS may have stronger predictive and prognostic value in treatment of mCRC using anti-EGFR therapy, but its value in treatment using anti-VEGF therapy is still unknown. The results would be more valuable if RAS status being used in the analysis.

3. The subsequent treatment after first-line therapy would have significant influence on OS. The manuscript gave information of subsequent anti-EGFR therapy but failed to give information on second-line or third-line intensity of chemotherapy in both groups.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.