Reviewer’s report

Title: Capecitabine plus bevacizumab versus capecitabine in maintenance treatment for untreated characterised KRAS exon 2 wild-type metastatic colorectal cancer: a retrospective analysis in Chinese postmenopausal women

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Reviewer: Ridhi Gupta

Reviewer’s report:

Relevant manuscript as we need data in terms of chemotherapy and tolerance of chemotherapy along with response to be noted in different patient populations. This manuscript would help add to that however please read and review my detailed comments below:

Abstract

What does untreated characterised KRAS exon 2 exactly mean. It is a little unclear so please simplify

Conclusion;

CAP-B maintenance treatment after 6-cycle CAPOX-B in Chinese post-menopause women with untreated KRAS exon 2 wild-type MCC is poorer tolerated but has a more modest, if any, benefit compared with that of CAP maintenance treatment can be restructured. Is slightly confusing to the reader. The relevance of post menopausal women with intervention of maintainence treatment is unclear

Background

- Line 28 - 29: needs reconstruction of the sentence. 2017 data is old data and almost 70% will develop metastatic disease. Please relay data for 2018 or change the tense from ‘will develop’ to ‘did develop’

- Please mention how the status of menopause correlates to response with anti-EGFR agents or KRAS wt type MCC

Methods

- First few sentences need reconstruction. Long and difficult to follow. Too many words
- Unclear if the patient population were all Kras wt or Kras mutated

Definitions
- OS : 'from' instead of for any cause (eg page 7 like 2-3)
- How is the tumor content important. Please clarify

Discussion
- Again not clear of the meaning of untreated Kras exon 2 wt? Does this mean that patients were not treated. If so, these are patients that have received 6 cycles of CapeOxB or FOLFOX B. Please clarify
- Page 10 - line 48 - post menopau'sal' not post-menopause
- Page 12: line 33-38: this appears to be the conclusion but not sure of what this means, not clear to the reader. Please restructure
- Page 12: line 55: incorrect use of adjuvant or were patients previously treated surgically.

Conclusion

Please replace poorer for 'poorly'.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I recommend additional statistical review

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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