Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of neo-adjuvant Sorafenib treatment on liver transplantation in HCC patients - a prospective, randomized, double-blind, phase III trial

Version: 2 Date: 19 November 2014

Reviewer: Fabio Farinati

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions required.

Even though the results reported are negative the paper contributes to the present knowledge regarding sorafenib use in the transplant setting. The table presented and, as a consequence, the discussion of the results obtained, should be modified. A number of factors in Table 2 are not equally distributed and this should be statistically analysed and discussed. The incidence of hand-foot syndrome and of severe adverse events is significantly higher in the SFN treated patients and this, in combination with the lack of an impact on the end-points chosen further discourage the use of the drug in combination with TACE. This aspect should be made more clear.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interest