Reviewer’s report

Title: A phase-II trial of combined chemotherapy with S-1, oral leucovorin, and bevacizumab in heavily pre-treated patients with metastatic colorectal cancer

Version: 2

Date: 30 March 2015

Reviewer: Prem Sinha

Reviewer’s report:

In the present manuscript, the authors report about a phase-II clinical trial for metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC) salvage therapy that evaluates the safety and efficacy of S-1 + oral leucovorin/bevacizumab combination chemotherapy. Based on the available data, the authors suggest the potential of this combination chemotherapy as an alternative chemotherapy for refractory mCRC. Despite the limitations of this work (such as lack of control groups and inability to perform significance subgroup analysis), the report provides important information for treating patients with refractory mCRC.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. It will be useful for a general reader who is from a non-medical field to follow the paper if a table is provided listing the existing therapies including the current one at different stages of colorectal cancer and limitations/benefits/progression free survival/overall survival rates etc. of various existing practices. Also, please avoid the use of medical acronyms in the text, if possible; it hinders the flow for a general reader. Explain Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group PS 0-2 and BEBYP studies. Define CEA and CA (page 12, line 9) and include them in the list of abbreviations.

2. Figure 2 and 3 needs some explanation in the legends. Also, please label the x-axes.

3. In table 2, there are two sub-columns in the sections “all grades and grades 3/4”. Please explain them in the legend and text.

4. Page 16, line 24, “According to these reports……. are limited”: unclear sentence; please re-phrase the sentence.

5. Page 17, line 6-8, “With this speculation…… to be resistant”: unclear sentence; please re-phrase the sentence.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

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