Reviewer's report

Title:NKTR-102 versus irinotecan as an approach for the treatment of brain metastasis of breast cancer

Version:2 Date:10 May 2015

Reviewer:Lorenzo J Alonso

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Minor Essential Revisions:
Paragraph "DATA ANALYSIS": I would explain in more detail the variable used in ANOVA: number of brain metastases or size of the metastases.
Here also I would say that a survival analysis was also implemented as a measure of effectiveness of the drug under study.
Here also there must be a summary description of the whole bunch of variables measured in the study to measure efficacy and other aspects such as the measure of the concentration of the drug inside the brain.

Paragraph NKTR-102 prolongs survival of animals with breast cancer brain metastases, line 276: I think that is redundant to repeat:" Based on quantitation of bioluminescence, CNS tumor burden was similar for irinotecan and vehicle treated animals."

Paragraph DISCUSSION: I believe must be shorter. I will supressed from line 301 to line 311 because is not directly related to the subject.

Paragraph CONCLUSIONS:
In my opinion only from lines 384 to lines 388 must be included. I don,t think that a preclinical study must report information from a clinical study underway. I will include a comments about the importance of the study of the toxicity profile of the drug in the clinical setting.

Paragraph RESULTS(lines 256,257,258): when the authors show the significance: "significant higher(p<0.05)" if the comparison was made between the means of the radioactivity values in ng.

Level of interest:An article of limited interest

Quality of written English:Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest.