Reviewer's report

Title: Bevacizumab And Combination CHemotherapy in rectal cancer Until Surgery (BACCHUS): A phase II, multicentre, open-label, randomised study of neoadjuvant chemotherapy alone in Patients with high-risk cancer of the rectum

Version: 3
Date: 8 April 2015

Reviewer: Ji Zhu

Reviewer's report:

The author answered my queries from reply 9-11. Reply 9 is OK, but reply 10-11, I still have some queries.

In the Reply 10, the authors partly answer this query in Reply 7. However, as a whole treatment regimen, preoperative CRT can't be divided into CT and RT simply. It is not reasonable to exclude the influence of chemotherapy and set RT alone as historical control.

In the Reply 11, BACCHUS is a phase II randomised feasibility study and the confidence limits will be wide. But it can't clarify why the regimen will be considered successful if at least 4/27 pCRs are observed. Pls clarify in detail with help of a statistician.

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