Reviewer’s report

Title: High-dose Chemotherapy and Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation of Patients with Multiple Myeloma in an Outpatient Setting

Version: 0 Date: 28 Nov 2016

Reviewer: Tanya Wildes

Reviewer's report:

While this is a small cohort, it is an important area that merits publication. The manuscript is carefully written, with appropriately detailed methods and a discussion that integrates the existing literature well. It needs minor revisions to strengthen it further. See minor recommendations below:

If character counts permit, I would include the focus on myeloma in the title.

The authors state in the abstract and the background that most of the autologous stem cell transplants in the US and Canada are done on an outpatient basis. I am not aware of any literature supporting this statement. The 4 studies cited [17-20] are all single institution studies. The CIBMTR is a national organization in the US that collects data on transplants. A CIBMTR report

https://www.cibmtr.org/referencecenter/slidesreports/documents/cibmtr_center_survey_report.pdf states that 57% of transplant centers have the capacity/framework to perform outpatient transplants, but I could not find any data stating that most autologous transplants are outpatient. The authors should provide a reference for the statement that most of the transplants in the US and Canada are outpatient, or modify the statement to accurately reflect the literature.

Procedures: Please clarify the frequency and duration of monitoring visits. Were they scheduled to be performed daily, 7 days a week, and over what time period? Did visits continue after engraftment if the patient was still experiencing nonhematologic toxicities? What were criteria for discontinuation of outpatient monitoring visits?

The early use of IV antibiotics at subfebrile temperatures in response to a rising CRP is interesting. Is there literature that informed this protocol? If so, please cite.

At what time point was patient satisfaction assessed? Were all participants assessed at the same time point?
Results: Fewer details about the situation with the patient who separated from his wife should be given - I would just say "One patient suddenly and unexpectedly no longer had a care-giving family member available..."

Figure 2 does not add much information to that already given in Table 4.

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 am able to assess the statistics

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

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