Reviewer’s report

Title: ALK-rearranged lung squamous cell carcinoma responding to alectinib: A case report and review of the literature

Version: 0 Date: 20 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Nicola Fracchiolla

Reviewer’s report:

The paper of Mamesaya et al describe the rare case of an ALK rearranged lung squamous cell carcinoma (SqCC).

The patient was initially treated with cisplatin and vinorelbine, with no response.

Upon the demonstration of ALK gene rearrangement upon FISH analysis, a treatment with alectinib was started obtaining significant response documented by CT scan.

The paper is written fairly well and deserve some interest for the rarity of the clinical case and the response to alectinib.

As the evidence in literature is virtually absent on this topic, the publication of this case report might prompt larger studies in order to determine the frequency of SqCC rearranged for ALK gene responding to specific inhibitors.

The Authors must:

1) report the updated total follow-up of the patient and the duration of response;

2) briefly comment the case described by Yamamoto et al Mol Clin Oncol. 2016 Jul;5(1):61-63

3) briefly comment on the different significance of ALK protein expression and ALK gene rearrangement

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.

Unable to assess
Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown? If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

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