Reviewer’s report

Title: Cost-effectiveness analysis of the introduction of S-1 therapy for first-line metastatic breast cancer treatment in Japan: results from the randomized phase III SELECT BC trial

Version: 0 Date: 12 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Frank G. A. Jansman

Reviewer’s report:

"Injection' of taxanes and other anticancer drugs should be replaced by 'intravenous' or 'parenteral' administration, because injection suggests a short administration time, while anticancer drugs are mostly given intravenously in 0.5-2 hours.

Under Background the advantage of patient comfort with S-1 should be added in comparison with parenteral administration.

Page 11:

'We selected taxanes as a comparator because taxanes are one of the standard therapies for first-line HER2 negative patients, and S-1 will replace them'. All standard therapies according to international guidelines should be mentioned to give insight in all treatment possibilities and to value the place of taxanes in the context of all possible anticancer pharmacotherapy. Moreover, it is too early to suggest that S-1 will replace current therapies, nor that it will be 1st choice in future.

A limitation of the study is that acquisition costs of drugs and other costs regard to the Japanese system and can therefore not be extrapolated to other countries. This must be mentioned, also in the summary/abstract, title and conclusion.

The conclusion that 'S-1 demonstrates potential for 4 becoming a standard therapy for first-line metastatic breast cancer from the perspective of cost-effectiveness.' should be changed to 'S-1 demonstrates potential for becoming a standard therapy for first-line metastatic breast cancer in comparison with taxanes from the perspective of cost-effectiveness'.

Were costs of (treatment of) side-effects included in the analysis? This should be clarified in the text.

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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