Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of first-line chemotherapy regimens for ovarian carcinosarcoma: a single institution case series and review of the literature

Version: 0 Date: 31 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Christina Annunziata

Reviewer's report:

Summary

The authors present a retrospective analysis of outcomes of women after treatment of carcinosarcoma with various chemotherapy regimens. The most interesting comparison is between carboplatin + paclitaxel versus ifosfamide + paclitaxel, where the platinum regimen resulted in superior progression-free survival, despite the small sample size. The discussion is very well written and brings up important challenges in studying this disease, as well as insightful interpretation of molecular data in the literature.

Comments

1. Methods page 6 line 108 - should this be median "time" instead of "age"?

2. Table 1 - please state what comparison the p-value describes.

3. Results page 8 line 142 - it would be interesting to note the stage of disease in the one patient that was excluded from analysis.

4. Results page 8 line 152 - similarly, it would be interesting to note the stage of disease in patients who did not receive adjuvant chemotherapy, and the reasons for this omission.

5. Results page 8 line 154 - it would be interesting to describe the comparison between ifos/platinum vs. taxol/platinum. Is it possible that the platinum is "required" but the second agent is interchangeable, such as in epithelial ovarian cancer? This would open the discussion of whether carbo/doxil or carbo/gem could be used up front in these women. If no difference in this comparison, then perhaps one could compare platinum-containing regimen to non-platinum regimens in this group of patients.

6. Results page 9 line 165 - I would recommend showing the data. The current figures 1 and 2 could be combined into 1A and 1B, and the other data could become figure 2A and B.
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

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