Reviewer’s report

Title: Influence of complete administration of adjuvant chemotherapy cycles on overall and disease-free survival in locally advanced rectal cancer: post hoc analysis of a randomized, multicenter, non-inferiority, phase 3 trial

Version: 0 Date: 06 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Roberto Passera

Reviewer’s report:

Very well planned, executed and reported post-hoc analysis of a large trial (Lancet Oncol 2012, 13(6):579-588).

From an epidemiological and biostats point of view, I do strongly recommend the publication of this research.

I have only some very minor comments:

- Cox models: I do suggest to add a new table, hosting all the uni-/multi-variate models, both for OS and DFS

- table 1: please, provide the continuous variables results (i.e. age) as median(IQR) rather than as median(range)

- KM curves: please, specify unit measure (yrs) just below the x-axis; moreover, could you add even p-values?

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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