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: John Bridgewater

Reviewer's report:

These data describe a poorer survival in patients who received less adjuvant chemotherapy than those who completed 12 weeks post-surgical therapy. As such this is confirmatory data to support the principle of the importance of 6 months of adjuvant therapy. It is consistent with pancreatic data (Valle et al JCO) but fails to account for other prognostic variables as those authors did. As such the result as published could be misleading as it fails to take into account essential confounding variables. I would be happy to look at this again when this is addressed.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

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:

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