Reviewer’s report

Title: Rationale and design of the German-Speaking Myeloma Multicenter Group (GMMG) trial HD6: A randomized phase III trial on the effect of elotuzumab in VRD induction/consolidation and lenalidomide maintenance in patients with newly diagnosed myeloma

Version: 1 Date: 30 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Sarah Holstein

Reviewer’s report:

1. Given the increasing interest in the potential role of MRD negativity as a surrogate endpoint, the authors should specify at what time points MRD analysis will be performed.

2. A personal communication from an investigator from 5 years ago is not sufficient to support a statement that no major serious toxicity has been observed in the SWOG study (ref 19) which has also evaluated Elo-VRD. Either delete this reference and statement or provide more recent data.

3. The authors fail to reference the presentation by Laubach et al from ASCO 2017 in which the initial results of a phase IIa study evaluating Elo-VRD were reported. In particular, there were two deaths in this study.

4. Many of the references are outdated—the authors cite abstracts from meetings which are now published (e.g., refs 13, 20, 34, 35)

5. Are patients undergoing 1 or 2 transplants?

6. The authors should address the rationale for 2 years of maintenance therapy as opposed to treatment until progression.

7. The authors should address other ongoing studies in this space incorporating anti-CD38 antibody therapy.

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.

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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