Reviewer’s report

Title: Exploring the characteristics of patients with mesothelioma who chose active symptom control over chemotherapy as first-line treatment: a prospective, observational, single centre study

Version: 1 Date: 19 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Charles B. Simone

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The authors performed a 200 patient query into reasons why patients chose active symptom control over chemotherapy for malignant mesothelioma. This is an interesting and novel study, as it is the first such analysis to describe the characteristics of mesothelioma patients who chose active symptom control. These findings are important and have implications for discussions with patients regarding decision making, as well as the design and implementation of future systemic therapy trials.

In their revision, they have clarified the methodology questions regarding data prospectively collected but patient choices retrospectively scored, they clarified which patients were seen by a medical oncologist and that only first-line patients were included, they reran the survival analysis with extended data, they added a discussion on missing data and interpretation bias, and they added a discussion on doctor-patient interactions. Some limitations still remain, such as not being able to adequately account for patient reasons and decision making in many cases, but this cannot be changed at this time. Ultimately, I feel that they have address all of the comments from each of the original three reviewers completely, and this should now be considered for publication.

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?

Yes
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:

Acceptable

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