Reviewer's report

Title: Cost-effectiveness of adding rituximab to the existing treatments of splenectomy and thrombopoietin receptor agonists (TPO-RA) for steroid-resistant idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP)

Version: 2 Date: 16 August 2014

Reviewer: Helmut Ostermann

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential Revisions

1. Abstract Conclusions: The addition of rituximab is innumbers more efficient however the difference is so small that I would suggest to change to "marginally more effective"

2. page 4 line 68: The authors should change their wording regarding long term steroids. Most patients are required to take steroids long term is not true, because most patients are switched to alternative treatments (splenectomy, TPO-RA)

3. page 5 line 93: Authors should mention that there are relapses following rituximab treatment as well

4. page 8 line 148: Authors should a that the dose will be titrated individually and that in some patients it is possible to use a much lower dose than the licensed dose.

5 page 9 line 155: What is the data source for pulmonary embolism?

6. Page 11 and table 1: How were the emergency treatment rates calculated? Were they based on relapse rates?

7. Page 13 see comment No 4.

8. page 17, line 308: Response rates of TPO-RA differed in the pivotal trials between patients before and after splenectomy

9. page 17, line 318: The authors have to discuss that there are relapses following rituximab treatment as well

10. The discussion section is rather long and lengthy explanations are used at times. It should be shortened and made more concise.

11. The authors should include in the discussion section a notion to possible side effects of rituximab in this patient population like sepsis in this patient cohort, a part of which has experienced long term steroid immunosuppression

Discretionary Revisions

1. Page 3 line 55 spleen and liver

2. page 3 line 57: exchange prolonged with persistent
3. page 5 line 86: There are reports of patients stopping TPO-RA and remaining in remission, please add

4. page 5 line 94: The reference to the textbook should be replaced by citing a guideline.

5. Page 15 line 276: what is "sates"?

6. Page 20 line 375: eltrombopag

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests