Reviewer's report

**Title:** Thymostimulin versus placebo for palliative treatment of locally advanced or metastasised hepatocellular carcinoma: a prospective randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind, multicenter clinical trial

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 5 April 2010

**Reviewer:** Maurizio Chiriva-Internati

**Reviewer's report:**

This manuscript is entitled "Thymostimulin versus placebo for palliative treatment of locally advanced or metastasized hepatocellular carcinoma: a prospective randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind, multicenter clinical trial"

**Discretionary Revisions:**

The aim of this study was to assess the efficacy of thymostimulin in a phase III trial.

The authors designed the study well and were able to prove that thymostimulin showed no effects on the survival or time to progression in patients with advanced HCC, even though further investigation is still necessary.

**Minor Essential Revisions:**

This study should be granted publication after minor revisions, including editing to remove some awkward, long sentences. The title needs to be shortened and grammar corrected.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests