Additional data file 1

Calculation steps in GeneCount.

Float diagrams of the entire GeneCount procedure (A) and the estimation of tumor cell fraction (B) are shown. Data input in (A) includes the aCGH ratio levels, R, derived from statistical analysis tools, the DNA index (DiT) of the tumor cells, the dynamic factor, q, of the experiment, and the tumor cell fraction, FT. FT can either be measured by a separate technique like flow cytometry, or estimated by the procedure in (B). In the former case, a fixed q-value, as determined from control experiments, is used. Otherwise, q is estimated for each tumor as indicated in (B), allowing for a deviation of typically 10% (range qmin - qmax) from the value determined in control experiments. To calculate tumor cell fraction, two ratio levels, R1 and R2, are selected, and the DNA copy numbers N1 and N2, corresponding to R1 and R2, respectively, are predicted in a stepwise manner by increasing N1 from 1 to 6 and N2 from 1 to 20 in steps of 1. R1, R2, and the incremental values of N1 and N2 are used in a simulation procedure based on Equation 4, allowing FT to vary from 0 to 1 in steps of 0.01, and calculating the corresponding q. The FT values obtained for q within the range qmin – qmax are used to calculate a mean FT representative of the tumor. The mean FT is further used as input to the algorithm in (A) to calculate the DNA copy numbers of all array probes. The criteria used to select R1 and R2 for estimation of tumor cell fraction are described in the Materials and methods section of the paper. The source code of the GeneCount module is available by communication to the authors.