Reviewer's report

Title: Polymorphisms in ERCC1, GSTs, TS and MTHFR predict clinical outcomes of gastric cancer patients treated with platinum/5-Fu-based chemotherapy: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 5 June 2012

Reviewer: Katja Ott

Reviewer's report:

It is a relevant metaanalysis on an important topic. Many papers on different patient cohorts treated neoadjuvantly, palliatively were recently published. This metaanalysis tries to find relevant polymorphisms being associated with toxicity, response and/or prognosis of the patients.

Major compulsory revision

Introduction:
Please delete the epidemiology and focus on your aims of your study
Add nowadays standards in neoadjuvant, perioperative and adjuvant chemotherapy and highlight the possible associations with the respective polymorphisms
Explain, why those polymorphisms were chosen

Results:
Please add to your subgroup analysis, the type of treatment:
Preoperative versus adjuvant versus palliative
Would it be possible to define more predictive combinations of genotypes by this metaanalysis for response and/or prognosis?

Discussion:
Shorten please the first part-it repeats facts of the introduction and focus on your results in combinations with literature
Address the problem of polychemotherapy: never single agents are delivered. It’s always a combination of 5-Fu and platinum containing combinations

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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 have no competing interests

Katja Ott