Reviewer’s report

Title: The distribution of the therapeutic monoclonal antibodies cetuximab and trastuzumab within solid tumors

Version: 3 Date: 2 March 2010

Reviewer: Arno Schad

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Major Compulsory Revisions
The quality of immunohistochemical detection of HER2 by staining with trastuzumab (fig. 1) still gives only marginal histological resolution to assess the specificity of the staining which is the basis for all further analysis. Indeed, there is no obvious difference between the HER2-stained sections of the first and the current version of the manuscript. What is the reason for the major difference between EGFR- and HER2-staining? Is there no frozen tissue left to simply redo the staining using trastuzumab and, additionally, using diagnostic antibodies against EGFR and HER2? These simple experiments could demonstrate the specificity of the staining in the further analysis, which is a crucial issue regarding the work on trastuzumab and thereby would significantly improve the manuscript.

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.