Reviewer's report

Title: Copy Number Amplification of the PIK3CA Gene Is Associated with Poor Prognosis in Non-lymph node metastatic Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Version: 4 Date: 5 July 2012

Reviewer: Chiara de Waure

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The paper “Copy Number Amplification of the PIK3CA Gene Is Associated with Poor Prognosis in non-lymph node metastatic Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma” has been improved but I would suggest the authors to take into consideration the following instructions in order to make the manuscript suitable for publication.

Major Compulsory Revisions

Results
1. There are still nonsense percentages in table 6 (i.e. N stage). Furthermore, if authors chose to report all the p values (also the non significant), the abbreviation NS should not be used any more.
2. I would like to ask the authors to state if there were any censored patients and which was the proportion of censoring in the different groups.
3. The paragraph about Cox proportional hazard models with multivariate adjustment is confusing. I would suggest the Authors to clearly distinguish between the disease free survival analysis and the overall survival analysis because they seem mixed by now.
4. Table 7 should be checked and amended: first, it should be clear what it is referred to; second, there is no asterisk in the table justifying the caption; third, I do not see the gender in the table.

Discussion
5. I would suggest the Authors to discuss further the potential for selection bias.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.