Reviewer's report

Title: Notch1 mutations influence survival in B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia patients

Version: 2 Date: 14 February 2013

Reviewer: Gianluca Gaidano

Reviewer's report:

Willander et al explore the prognostic significance of NOTCH1 mutations in a relatively large cohort of CLL. NOTCH2 mutations were also investigated in this series. The manuscript is well organized and methodologically sound. I have only minor essential revisions, as listed below.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

1. Did the authors assess whether NOTCH1 mutations predicted Richter syndrome in this specific series? Relevant literature on this topic should be cited (eg: Rossi et al, Br J Haematol 2012)

2. The authors should assess the relationship between NOTCH1 mutations and +12 in their CLL series

3. The authors fail to quote one of the two seminal papers of NOTCh2 mutations in lymphoid malignancies. The two reports were published back-to-back in the same issue of J Exp Med and should both be cited.

4. Spelling mistakes should be revised (eg trisomi)

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests