Reviewer's report

Title: Serum levels of Dickkopf-1 are an independent prognostic marker in prostate cancer

Version: 2 Date: 22 June 2014

Reviewer: Evangelos Terpos

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting study which shows for the first time that patients with prostate cancer at diagnosis and high levels of circulating dickkopf-1 have poor prognosis. Although the number of patients is rather small for the most common male malignancy, the observation that this increase in Dkk-1 has independent prognostic value is of great interest for publication.

I enclose some comments that will have to be addressed for the improvement of the paper in my opinion:

1. I would like the authors to provide values of Dkk-1 for healthy subjects of similar age and gender with the patients as there may be significant overlapping in Dkk-1 values; something that can reduce the value of the finding for the every-day clinical practice.

2. Do the authors have any information for the bone status of the patients in the two groups? i.e. male osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, etc The number of patients with bone metastases in both groups (Dkk-1 low and high) has to be clearly reported.

3. Finally, can the authors suggest a Dkk-1 level for validation in larger series of patients?

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests