Reviewer’s report

Title: Chromosomal instability in exfoliated urothelial cells from bladder cancer cases and healthy men: a prospective screening study

Version: 2 Date: 21 August 2014

Reviewer: Jordan P. Reynolds

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well-done paper detailing a prospective screening of urine in healthy patients using FISH. This is well-written and easy to read. While some of your terminology is not standard in the practical FISH (CIN, CNV) you do a good job of explaining them in your paper. The references are pertinent and up to date. The tables add value to the paper because they make it easy to see the temporal assessment of abnormal FISH cases on your data set.

Major compulsory revisions

There are 20 patients with "bladder tumors" and you interchangeably use bladder cancer at some points. The 3 papillomas, while neoplastic, are not considered carcinoma. This also may explain why there were no loss of 9p21 cases in bladder cancer (line 229), as 9p21 losses are typically found in low grade urothelial carcinoma cases. This is a simple problem to fix. Just make a new table and put the CNV associated with the high grade and low grade urothelial carcinoma cases. If the papilloma cases are negative for CNV you could reiterate that in the results and discussion.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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