Reviewer's report

Title: Primary effect of chemotherapy on the transcription profile of AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma

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Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

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The effects of combination therapy have been widely studied in cellular systems, however the information regarding their specific molecular activity in vivo is limited and have been circumscribed to studies on long term exposure to agents during treatment.

In this interesting report the authors analyzed the early impact of anti AIDS-KS chemotherapy "in vivo" at the level of genome-wide transcription using SAGE as an analytical tool. Their findings are interesting and show that chemotherapy induces an early block in genome wide transcription evidenced by the increase of long lived messengers after 24 hours of treatment and the complete shut down of AIDS-KS like transcripts by 48hs.

Although the study is limited to a few patient samples, it is still technically challenging and well controlled. Even though it is based on combination therapy to AIDS-KS, it provides valuable insights on the effect of chemotherapy "in vivo" and illustrates an interesting model that could have certain application for the study of cancer therapy in patient samples.

There is a funny typo on page 4 line 9 in which the authors may be referring to the formation of DNA-drug adducts and not addicts

Competing interests:

None declared.