Title: Chromosomal imbalances in four new uterine cervix carcinoma derived cell lines.

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Reviewer: Kenji Umayahara

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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The authors performed comparative genomic hybridization (CGH) on four HPV 18 positive cell lines derived from advanced squamous cell cervical carcinoma. Essentially the results were compared with previously published findings by CGH.

(1) The authors should explain why they selected 1.2 and 0.8 as threshold for detecting copy number gains and losses.
(2) Gains at 1q31-q32 and 7p13-p14, and losses at 6q26-q27 seem to be unique alterations for HPV 18 positive cell lines. The authors should focus on these chromosomal lesions.
(3) The lesion on chromosome 7p13-14 has been shown to harbour a transcribed human sequence related to HPV18 E5 gene, as the authors described previously. Application of FISH with probes to HPV18 and 7p13-p14 would strengthen this manuscript.

Competing interests:

None declared.