Reviewer’s report

Title: A novel duplication polymorphism in the FANCA promoter and its association with breast and ovarian cancer.

Version: 1  Date: 23 November 2004

Reviewer: Kathleen Claes

Reviewer’s report:

General
I think this report contains data which are interesting for people involved in the field of breast/ovarian cancer predisposition. Since the finding that the FANCD1 protein is the product of BRCA2, the question is raised whether one or more of the FANC genes could be involved in breast cancer predisposition. The data in this manuscript can be useful to resolve this hypothesis. The authors describe the finding of a novel polymorphism in the promoter region of the FANCA gene and its prevalence in a well-defined group of breast/ovarian cancer patients. This is a brief, straightforward manuscript.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
- In a few sentences some words seem to have disappeared which make it difficult to understand the message:
  pg10: The possibility that variation in other FA genes may predispose to breast or ovarian cancer.
  ????
  pg11: It is unknown what biological effect the duplication might have but it may alter the (????) or regulation.
- Some typing errors were found:
e.g.: pg7-The data WAS considered using models...
p4-FANCA localises to16q24.3

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
- As molecular geneticists are not always familiar with statistical terms, it might be helpful to briefly explain the difference between type I and type II errors.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.