Reviewer's report

Title: Early prediction of therapy response in patients with acute myeloid leukaemia by nucleosomal DNA fragments

Version: 2 Date: 17 February 2006

Reviewer: lucia altucci

Reviewer's report:

General
The manuscript has not much improved from the previous version because the data added are very few.

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

The authors should justify what they cannot include (increase the patient's number and blasts studies) and include all data they instead can provide as they say in response to this reviewer and to the other. Indeed, conceptually, a decision has to be taken after reading the manuscript in its full contents, never before.

This reviewer was asking to get in the manuscript some 'more molecular' aspects. This was referred to the possibility to correlate the value in early prediction of nucleosomal DNA fragments with molecular parameter of the effects of the therapy.

The authors state that's difficult to get blasts sample; They may nevertheless see if it is possible to include some experiments with blasts cells even if taken from blood.

Otherwise they may include just the data that they can.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

It will be good to get an improvement in English.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'