Reviewer's report

**Title:** Cyclo-oxygenase-2 (Cox-2) expression is associated with resistance to platinum but not platinum/paclitaxel containing chemotherapy in advanced ovarian cancer

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 1 May 2006

**Reviewer:** Ralph Freedman

**Reviewer's report:**

General
The authors propose in their results that COX-2 expression, expressed as a binary variable, correlated with unresponsive patients, but only in platinum-based chemotherapy and not in patients receiving platinum and taxol.

While this is an interesting paper, there are several issues that should be addressed:

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

1) The authors do not clearly define response. It is difficult to apply WHO criteria since ovarian cancer patients in first line chemotherapy after surgery typically do not have easily measurable disease. It is unclear to this reviewer how response was specifically measured.

2) Treating the expression of COX-2 as a binary variable excludes a considerable amount of important information, such as proportion of the tumors that express COX-2. The authors stated that their correlation of COX-2 applied only to the cisplatin group. The significance of this finding is not certain in view of the fact that standard first-line treatment for ovarian cancer is a combination of platinum with a taxane.

This reviewer cannot recommend approval of the manuscript in the present form.

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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