Reviewer’s report

Title: Differential DNA methylation profiles in gynecological cancers and correlation with clinico-pathological data

Version: 1 Date: 17 April 2006

Reviewer: Jayanthi Lea

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is an interesting study with clinical applicability.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
What was the basis of testing the methylation profile of the genes mentioned in the manuscript?
How are these genes relevant to cancer?
How did the authors arrive at the subset of nine genes that were tested on individual patient samples?
Why did the authors not chose to pursue the methylation status of CDH1 and MINT2 in cervical cancers?
Why were only cervical cancers included in the survival analysis?
The authors must clearly disclose the references that contain the primer sequenced for the genes tested. The current reference only has primer sequences for 3 genes.
The manuscript needs more detail about the position of primers for each gene tested.
The discussion is too long and choppy. A succinct discussion of the results would suffice.

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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)
No minor revisions.

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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 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.