Reviewer's report

Title: Genetic Variability In CYP3A4 And CYP3A5 In Primary Liver, Gastric And Colorectal Cancer Patients

Version: 1 Date: 9 April 2007

Reviewer: Jan Lindemans

Reviewer's report:

General
This manuscript describes a study on the possible relation between CYP3A4 and CYP3A5 polymorphisms and the risk of developing forms of gastrointestinal cancer. No such a relation was found.

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

The major problem with this paper is, that although quite significant numbers of patients are included per group, by breaking them down to the genetic variant groups, the numbers become very small indeed. Especially in the smallest group, stomach cancer, this leads rapidly to significance problems. For the present data the conclusions are correct, but it remains uncertain whether a relation would not pop up at larger numbers of patients.

On page 6 under "statistical analysis" the power of the study is roughly described. It would be preferable to explain the power calculations in more detail, especially with regard to the power in subgroups.

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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)

Please, include method of DNA isolation (page 6)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

There are a few small spelling mistakes.

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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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.