Reviewer's report

Title: Serum diagnosis of diffuse large B-cell lymphomas and further identification of response to therapy using SELDI-TOF-MS and Tree Analysis Patterning

Version: 5 Date: 17 October 2007

Reviewer: Antonia Vlahou

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have addressed the previous comments of the reviewers.

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

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

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

1. "The period from diagnosis until the present is 36 to 48 months". It is recommended to be rephrased to: "the follow-up period from diagnosis was 36 to 48 months"

2. "A proteomic data set reported by Adam et al (2002) was used to classify the samples in this study. The data set consisted of SELDI TOF MS spectra from 207 samples which was generated with the WCX2 chip. Ten microliters.....". It is recommended to be rephrased to: "The protocol reported by Adam et al (2002) which was used to classify SELDI TOF MS spectra from 207 samples, was followed. In brief, 10 microliters....".

3. "The chips were contained in a bioprocessor" better rephrase to "the chips were placed in a bioprocessor"

4. "Specificity was calculated as the ratio of the number of non relapse....good prognosis samples or non relapse samples" The word "respectively" should be added in the end of this sentence.

5. "..Figure 1 illustrateS" (illustrates)

6. "Patients with an IPI of 0-2 were anticipated as patients with a good prognosis.." The word "anticipated" may be replaced with the word "considered".

7. "The limitations do not inhibit of the application.." The word "of" should be deleted i.e "the limitations do not inhibit the application"
8. Tables 1-3: It is recommended to add the sentence "Mean and SD refer to the peak intensities"

9. Table 4: "The sensitivity of the SELDI marker pattern in DLBCL patients with different stages" may be rephrased to "the sensitivity of the SELDI marker pattern in detecting different DLBCL stages"

What next?: Accept after discretionary 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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

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