Reviewer’s report

Title: Classification tree analysis of second neoplasms after childhood cancer

Version: 1 Date: 1 August 2006

Reviewer: Gregory Reaman

Reviewer’s report:

General
The manuscript is generally well written and the focus on the decision tree methodology is evident

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
Authors should discuss reason(s) for the far lower incidence of SMN in their series compared to much larger series previously published
Authors provide no data on specifics of therapy and fail to discuss consistency of diagnosis specific therapy during the period reported.
Authors fail to address changes in therapy approach which occurred during the 40 year period reported. In addition, the classification tree analysis does not adequately consider the time course based on specific exposure(s) as well as underlying genetic susceptibilities which may be operational in SMN development.

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)

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: Yes

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