Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical implications of thymidylate synthetase, dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase and orotate phosphoribosyl transferase activity levels in colorectal carcinoma following radical resection and administration of adjuvant 5-FU chemotherapy

Version: 5 Date: 10 October 2007

Reviewer: Carlo Barone

Reviewer's report:

General
The revised version of the manuscript is not satisfying

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

The discussion should be carefully rewritten. It is too long and rather confuse. Some statement is repeated (for example, page 11, lines 2-4 and 26-27) and overall the subjects are disorganized. It might be useful to bring forward the considerations concerning the different methods (immunoistochemistry, gene or enzyme assay) for determining TS, DPD, OPRT and to discuss it briefly. The AA have to articulate better the arguments, avoiding redundant and futile considerations.

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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)

Page 3, line 10. The response cannot be an objective of an adjuvant study; it should be replaced with "outcome"

Page 5, lines 10-11. In the table is also included a N2 patient

Page 6, lines 12-13. Choose how to stop the reaction!

Page 8, lines 5-6. The sentence is a repetition.

Page 8, line 16. It is impossible to me to understand this phrase

Page 10, lines 1-5. The title is redundant ("duration of subjects" may be eliminated. The first two sentences should be re-written, emphasizing that there is a difference between Dukes' B and C stage, but that it doesn't reach the significance


Page 13, lines 24-25. Remove.

Page 14, lines 24-25. The sentence is inaccurate. Among the references there are a lot of studies concerning adjuvant therapy (ref. 15, 18, 19, 20)
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:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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.