Reviewer's report

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

Version: 8 Date: 19 February 2008

Reviewer: Carlo Barone

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
The AA. have revised their manuscript according to the major remarks that have been made. I think that in the present version the manuscript may be accepted, but a great work has still to be made in order to improve the quality of the English. I strongly recommend an extensive check by an English mother tongue revisor.

In the following minor essential revisions only a partial list of these issues is reported.

Minor Essential Revisions
Abstract, lines 13-14: "... was examined to determine ..."
Page 3, line 11: "... of an anticancer agents before the initiation of such therapies."
Page 3, lines 16-17: "In clinical studies or various malignancies ..."
Page 4, line 2: "... have demonstrated that these activities of enzymes such as ...
Page 4, line 3: "... of 5-FU chemotherapy for unresectable ...
Page 6, line 3: "... as described by Fujii et al as described below."
Page 6, lines 5-6: "Unlike previous investigations that mainly measured TS protein levels, the present investigation measured TS enzyme activity by tritium release assay."
Page 6, line 10: "... as the substrate."
Page 6, line 20: "... by ratio ...
Page 7, line 8: "... fluorodihydrouracil ...
Page 7, line 9: "... fluoro-beta-alanaine ...
Page 9, line 1: "... activity are given ...
Page 11, line 26: "... protein quantity ...
Page 12, line 5: "... drawback is decreased decreased enzyme activity..."
Page 12, lines 9-11: The sentence is unintelligible; there are verbs, words or conjunctions missing.

Page 12, line 14: "... is regulated both TS and OPRT."

Page 13, line 16: The argument is relevant to tumor responsiveness not to toxicity.

Page 13, last sentence: It is unclear; it lacks of the first term of the comparison and should be better expressed.

Table 2: No space between p and mol/min/mg-protein.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.