Reviewer's report

Title: EGFR and HER2 expression in primary cervical cancers and corresponding metastases: Implications for targeted radiotherapy

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Reviewer: Mario Scartozzi

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In their paper Li Shen and co-workers investigated EGFR and HER-2 expression in primary cervical cancer and corresponding (lymph node) metastases in order to identify a possible “biological” indication to treatment. Among 53 cases analysed the

It would be more useful and appealing for the readers if the title should include the sites of metastases analysed (i.e.: “and corresponding lymphnode metastases”)

Authors detected a good concordance in EGFR expression and an absent expression of HER-2 and concluded that EGFR may represent a good therapeutic target in this setting while HER-2 should be of poor interest.

Discretionary Revisions

The question posed by the authors seems well defined and the methods be considered partially appropriate. It is in fact unknown whether EGFR immunostaining is to be considered a predictive factor for anti-EGFR treatment in cervical tumours and therefore the technical limitations of immunohistochemistry in determining the biological activity of the EGFR should be mentioned.

It is interesting to note that an apparent lack of concordance for EGFR status is detected in 15 cases. This proportion should not be considered irrelevant to study conclusions especially when we consider that the level of immunohistochemical EGFR expression may not be necessarily related to anti-EGFR treatment outcome.

Moreover although authors findings may be considered original the number of the cases analysed should prevent any definitive conclusions, we then believe that discussion and conclusions should be re-arranged in this view.

If more than one metastatic lymphnode has been analysed for EGFR expression (as it appears from the paper) it would be interesting to know if EGFR pattern is uniformly expressed among different metastatic lymphnodes.

Needs some language corrections before being published

My opinion is to accept after discretionary revisions.

The article is of limited interest but may represent a starting point for subsequent research in this area.
I have no competing interest to declare

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interest to declare