Reviewer’s report

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

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Reviewer: Carl Blomqvist

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The report by Shen et al analyses the expression of two receptors EGFR and HER2 in squamous cell carcinoma of uterine cervix. Her2 was found to be virtually absent in accordance to most previous studies, while the EGFR was frequently found to be overexpressed and results in primaries and metastases generally concordant. The authors speculate that the result can support EGFR as a target for targeted radiotherapy.

Although I find the article worth to be published, I have a few minor comments:

i) Table 1. I think it is unnecessary to describe the distribution of tumour characteristics which have no variance like histology and the presence of ovarian metastases, this can be written in the text.

ii) I think the authors should discuss the problem of using immunohistochemistry in a quantitative way. These problems can account for part of the discrepancies between primaries and metastases.

iii) In speculation of using EGFR for targeted radiotherapy, the authors should discuss the possible side-effects caused by EGFR expression in normal tissue.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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 interest.