Reviewer’s report

Title: Amplification of HER2 is a Marker for Global Genomic Instability

Version: 2 Date: 9 October 2008

Reviewer: Huilin Li

Reviewer’s report:

Article “Amplification of HER2 is a Marker for Global Genomic Instability” obtained the following results from statistical analysis. The frequency of AI was significantly higher in HER2 amplified compared to HER2 negative tumors. Especially at chromosomes 11q23, 16q22-q24 and 18q21, HER2+ samples showed significantly higher levels of AI. Considering the small sample size, they used the fisher exact test. The authors may need to be cautious about the power of their hypothesis, because of the small sample size. The authors also conducted the confounding factor analysis of AI and HER2 by stratifying the data by ER status and tumor grade. The author claimed the association was confirmed on the above chromosomes. Just wondering how small is the sample size in each stratum. Apart from the small sample size concern, the statistical analysis conducted in this article is correct.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests