Reviewer's report

Title: The development of a mini-array for estimating the disease states of gastric adenocarcinoma by array CGH

Version: 4 Date: 30 September 2008

Reviewer: Eivind Hovig

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Editorial Board member comments:

I have gone through the manuscript, and in my opinion, there is a problem in using more than 80 samples for development of the classifier, and leaving only 30 samples for validation. I think the number is simply too low to be of any value. And as the authors also state: "these findings indicate the validity of the practical use of the mini-array to determine the optimal treatment methods. However, the diagnostic accuracy, specificity and sensitivity of the mini-array for the blinded samples may not completely meet the requirement of surgeons at present. The mini-array needs to be revised to improve the diagnostic performance." They then go on to concede that the number of tumors examined was limited. Thus, a separate validation on the same limited dataset is not worth while, but an expanded validation set is necessary with the min-array and/or another method.