Reviewer's report

Title: Chromosomal imbalance in the progression of high-risk non-muscle invasive bladder cancer: a case control study

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Reviewer: Per-Uno Malmstrom

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a negative result regarding the predictive value of chromosomal alterations as a progression marker in non-muscle invasive bladder cancers, this in contrast to several reports from the literature of the opposite. Firstly it is important that negative results are published. As with positive results the result can be true or false (see below).

Major Compulsory Revisions The manuscript is somewhat unstructured. For example is the aim mentioned in the Methods and not in the Background.

The definition of chromosomal imbalance, the key factor analyzed, is not fully described. Neither is the authors’ interpretation of this discussed.

The material selection is interesting with primary and unrelated secondary tumors. Even if it is mentioned that primary and related secondaries are usually clonally related a deeper analysis by f.ex. presenting the results of also this later group could be rewarding for the understanding.

The tumor material is crucial for these type of analysis. One possible cause of a false negative result could be insufficient tumor fraction in the analyzed material. How did the authors check that not too much non-tumor tissue was contained in the specimen?

Minor Essential Revisions

No array profile is depicted for the readers to evaluate the quality of the tests.

The correlation between qPCR and SNP arrays result is not shown.

Table 1 is difficult to read with a mixture of tumor characteristics and methods.

The syntax is not high quality f.ex the “progression process” is mentioned in the conclusions. Do the authors mean process?

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'