Reviewer's report

Title: Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) gene copy number (GCN) correlates with clinical activity of irinotecan-cetuximab in K-RAS wild-type colorectal cancer: a fluorescence in situ (FISH) and chromogenic in situ hybridization (CISH) analysis.

Version: 1 Date: 6 July 2009

Reviewer: Esther P Black

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Discretionary:
1. Did administration of irinotecan in combination with 5-FU/leucovorin v. alone change the predictive power of FISH or CISH?
2. There are several typographical errors in the Patients and Methods section.

Minor:
1. The ROC plots are mislabeled on the x-axis. The label should read (100%-specificity %).
2. Of the 44 evaluable samples, not all were assayed by FISH although all were assayed by CISH. Do the responders as determined by CISH analysis, with the established cutoffs, encompass the responders as determined by FISH? There is no mention of the overlap or correlation between the two methods. Please describe.

Major: none

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:

Yes, I have competing interests. We published an article in BMCC describing the use of a gene expression predictor of response to anti-EGFR therapy in colorectal cancer. I am co-founder and president of a company which seeks to pursue clinical use of this predictor.