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.

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Reviewer: Pierre Laurent-Puig

Reviewer's report:

This paper deals with the role of EGFR copy number variation and response to irinotecan cetuximab in patients demonstrating a resistance to irinotecan chemotherapy regimen in a series of 44 patients KRAS wild-type patients. They compared two different methods: the FISH and the CISH. The results seem indicate that an increased copy number of EGFR is prognostic of response and time to progression.

Major remarks
Although this series is small and probably retrospective the results presented here are of interest. Nevertheless, the authors should investigate the others markers of resistance to cetuximab and among them at least the BRAF mutation status and they also need to add a table given the individual data concerning the EGFR copy number by the two technics used (CISH and FISH). They should also try to determine if there is any interest to combine the FISH and the CISH methods.

Minor remarks
The nature prospective of retrospective should be mentioned in the patients and methods section
In the result section a typographical error mixed CISH and FISH in the same sentences line 7 page 9
The legend of the roc curves is often presented a sensitivity and 1- specificity It seems for me that there is a mistake in the x

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have received reimbursements, fees, funding from Merck