Reviewer's report

Title: Real-time PCR complements immunohistochemistry in the determination of HER-2/neu status in breast cancer

Version: 2 Date: 22 December 2005

Reviewer: Chris De Wolf-Peeters

Reviewer's report:

General: the revised manuscript is well-written and the authors have incorporated the necessary changes. They have made a lot of effort in improving the quality of the manuscript. Therefore we find the present, revised manuscript acceptable for publication.

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Minor Essential Revisions:
Reference 21. The first and last authors names are incorrect.

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Discretionary Revisions:
1) p5: The authors call IHC an indirect method compared to FISH (a 'direct' method). This is not very clear. What do they mean? It depends on the methodology used...

2) p11: Five µl of each sample... The authors better mention the amount of DNA in µg since a volume doesn't give any valuable information

3) The authors still do not clearly explain the discordance of three cases in their study. However, they give some general information concerning discordance between IHC-FISH.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.