Reviewer's report

**Title:** Classifying the Precancers: A Meta Data Approach

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**Reviewer:** Hans-Ulrich Prokosch

**Level of interest:** A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Advice on publication:** Accept without revision

The papers comprises a well written description of the application of the UMLS (as a basis for classifying precancer terms). The authors have thus started a process, which is not finished yet, but publication of this paper and following online discussions may lead to a further refinement of this first version within the following years, thus being the first step towards a clinically useful classification of precancers. The presentation of the classification in XML as Metadata format provides researchers with a technically sound tool to work on it for further refinement and structuring their own input.

**Competing interests:**
None declared.