Reviewer's report

Title: Losing the genetic twin: donor grief after unsuccessful unrelated stem cell transplantation

Version: 1 Date: 19 August 2008

Reviewer: Britt-Marie Svahn

Reviewer's report:

The voluntary donors make it possible to find a donor for almost all patients nowadays and it is very important to give all possible support to these donors all over the world. This study shows the importance of information and what kind of information the donors prefer. It can be useful for all donor centres to find there own way to optimise the donor procedure. The return rate of the questionnaire of 82.3% shows that the donors find this important. The donor's wellbeing can't be enough taken care of.

However this message could bee given in fewer words.

I have one suggestion on page 4 when describing the success rate and HLA matching between recipient and donor: it is not just HLA matching that is important we also match for CMV, EBV and gender. This can be important information to the donor.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'