Reviewer’s report

Title: Genotyping Panel for Assessing Response to Cancer Chemotherapy

Version: 5 Date: 11 April 2008

Reviewer: Federico Innocenti

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This study has analyzed the association between two variants in the EGFR gene in relation to acute coronary syndrome in a case-control study in Chinese subjects. A few comments should be addressed by the authors.

Major compulsory revisions.

1) In the background, I would not define SNPs in ACE and other genes as “critical” for the development of ACS. If the authors think this is the case, those variants should be genotyped in this study in order to control for their confounding effect.

2) Many of allele and genotype frequency data in the text of the results are already reported in the tables. The result section can be significantly shortened, to avoid redundancy.

3) It is not clear if the logistic regression analysis is multivariate or univariate.

4) The p value cut-off has not been adjusted for multiple comparisons: hence, the significance of some of the associations is questionable. The authors mention once in the paper that this is a pilot study: in the statistical section, the nature of the design of the study should be clearly stated (exploratory, prospective, retrospective, hypothesis-generating, etc.)

5) The discussion provides very little insight on the interpretation of the results, in particular about the pathophysiology of EGFR in ACS. The discussion is predominantly on the role of EGFR genetic variation in other diseases, a topic that is not particularly relevant to the discussion of the data.

6) Due to the role of EGFR function in cardiac hypertrophy, vasoconstriction and hypertension, as well as in diabetic arterial complications (that has been demonstrated in several in vivo models), the authors should check whether there is an imbalance in the distribution of the R497K allele in the ACS group between patients with and without hypertension, as well between patients with and without diabetes.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests