Reviewer’s report

Title: The revised Bethesda guidelines: extent of utilization in a university hospital medical center with a cancer genetics program

Version: 1 Date: 2 October 2010

Reviewer: Nicoline Hoogerbrugge

Reviewer’s report:

This study of Mukherjee et al retrospectively investigates the efficacy of the Bethesda guidelines in practice.

The study question is well defined, although not entirely new.

The methods used are appropriate in sufficient detail.

The data and conclusions are sound and described clearly.

The relevant standards for reporting are met with an accurate title and abstract.

However I have a few concerns that need revision:

1. The references that are used are relatively old (with only 10 out of 42 less that 5 years old). However many articles have been published in the last few years shedding a new light on Lynch Syndrome. This affects the information given in the introduction section. Examples: EPCAM deletions among the genetic causes of Lynch syndrome (Nat Genet. 2009;41:112-7) and bladder cancer being part of the Lynch tumor spectrum (J Med Genet. 2010 Jul;47(7):464-70).

2. The manuscript, being an original article not a review, is too long. The information given in the background and in the discussion needs to be summarized.

3. The barriers and solutions to these barriers are focussed on the USA, including federal laws. However, this manuscript is offered for publication in an international journal. Therefore, some possible solutions being described for European situations are worth being taken up in the discussion as well such as in Gut. 2005;54:97-102; Virchows Archiv: 2010: 456 (6); 653-659 and more.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.