Reviewer’s report

Title: Association between HER2 status in gastric cancer and clinicopathological features: a retrospective study using whole-tissue sections

Version: 0 Date: 22 Aug 2015

Reviewer: Lorenzo Nicole

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Gastric Cancer (GC), remain a major health problem in developing countries where principal risk factors are largely diffuse. Advanced stage management are limited to palliative supporting care, however larger worldwide metanalysis showed that about 18% of patients present a gastric cancer expressing Her-2 receptors that are a predictive factor of response to tyrosine kinase inhibitors such as trastuzumab. Use of trastuzumab in combination with chemotherapy has proved effective in improving survival in non-operative patients expressing Her-2. However, to date, prevalence of Her-2 expressing GC and related clinicopathological features in Brazilian patients is still unknown, and the use of tyrosine kinase inhibitors is not yet adopted. The authors of this studies analyzed retrospectively with an immunohistochemical approach the prevalence of Her-2 expressing GCs, as well as correlation between Her-2 expression status and main clinicopathological characteristics of GC. They have demonstrated in according with international data a relevant percentage of Her-2 positive GCs and thus, suggesting the appropriateness of the introduction of tyrosine kinase inhibitors in treatment of Her-2 positive patients with advanced/metastatic stage GC. The study is well conduct, however, I have some minor concerns that the authors should address:

* I suggest adding a table summarizing data obtained from international metanalysis that reported prevalence about Her-2 status in GCs and its correlation (where possible) with main clinicopathological features.

* The paper could be improved by the addition of images of all techniques adopted for this study (SISH).
Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.  

Yes  

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
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Yes  

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
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Yes  

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I am able to assess the statistics  

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