Reviewer's report

Title: Clinical Observations on Chemotherapy Curable Malignancies: Unique Genetic Events, Frozen Development and Enduring Apoptotic Potential

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Reviewer: Tim Crook

Reviewer's report:

In this interesting manuscript, Dr Savage examines why a limited number of malignancies can be routinely cured by the medical oncologist using "old drugs" (and no other therapeutic modality), yet at the same time relatively little progress has been made extending these remarkable initial advances into improvements in outcome of the more common cancers.

This is a beautifully written article. It provides a truly fascinating historical perspective on the early days of chemotherapy and proposes thought provoking insights and ideas as to why the curable cancers exhibit such exquisite chemotherapy sensitivity. In my opinion, this article should be compulsory reading for young oncologists in training. I absolutely support its acceptance and publication.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests.