Reviewer’s report

Title: BRAF mutant colorectal cancer: ErbB2 expression levels as predictive factor for the response to combined BRAFi/ErbB1 inhibitors

Version: 0 Date: 15 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Mohammad Akbari

Reviewer’s report:

- It has been well established that BRAF mutant CRC tumours will not respond to EGFR inhibitors and respond better to BRAF inhibitors alone or in combination with EGFR inhibitors. The authors reconfirmed somehow these known facts.

- It is logical to expect that tumor cells with high levels of HER2 will respond better to Afatinib which inhibit all ErbB proteins including HER2 and EGFR compared to drugs like panitumumab which specifically inhibit only EGFR and the authors here showed that with their cell line analysis.

- It is recommended to add a table showing response to all different drugs and their combinations for all different cell lines together in one place at one view.

- This is just a cell line analysis and before being able to recommend HER2 amplification analysis for choosing CRC patients for combined BRAF/HER2 inhibitors, we need to study this in a clinical trial, so, the authors should be very careful in concluding this based on their cell line analysis.

- There are several typos across the texts that need to be corrected.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics
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Acceptable

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