

Peer Review

Review of: "Monitoring of Cell-free Human Papillomavirus DNA in Metastatic or Recurrent Cervical Cancer: Clinical Significance and Treatment Implications"

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It's my honor to have the opportunity to review the manuscript entitled "Monitoring of Cell-free Human Papillomavirus DNA in Metastatic or Recurrent Cervical Cancer: Clinical Significance and Treatment Implications".

Here are the comments below:

1. The article mentions that "the baseline copy number significantly differed among the five recurrence/metastatic pattern groups ($P=0.019$) and tended to gradually increase with the degree of recurrence/metastasis (Figure 2B)." Could HPV cfDNA copy number be used to predict changes in metastatic patterns, allowing for early alterations in treatment strategies to improve prognosis? If conditions allow, it might be worth considering some exploratory research on this topic in the authors' future studies.
2. The article mentions that "six patients with clinically progressive disease (as per RECIST) exhibited elevation of HPV cfDNA copy number before imaging-confirmed disease progression", however, only the clinical data for three patients are presented in Figure 3A1. It would be best to include the clinical data for the remaining three patients in the figure to provide a complete overview.
3. The visual presentation of Figures 3F1 and 3F2 is overly complex. Could the authors consider grouping the patients and presenting them in multiple figures to improve readability?

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.