Reviewer's report

Title: Mouse model of carbon tetrachloride induced liver fibrosis: Histopathological changes and expression of CD133 and epidermal growth factor

Version: 2 Date: 10 May 2010

Reviewer: helene gilgenkrantz

Reviewer's report:

1. The new data showing CD133 and a-SMA immunohistochemistry in the same area on serial sections are not really convincing. Particularly a-SMA staining looks as an artefact in injured cells or area. Therefore it should only be indicated that « CD133 positive cells could probably correspond to HSC ». 

2. The new data showing phosphorylated EGFR expression shows a clear up-regulation - in contrast to what has been seen with the non-phosphorylated form of EGFR-. It is in correlation with PCNA expression and therefore probably with cell proliferation. The discussion has bo be improved on this point.

3. Recent evidences suggest that Amhiregulin, that has been found up-regulated in the new version, plays a unique role not only in liver fibrosis but also in liver tumorigenesis and in the maintenance of the neoplastic phenotype of hepatocarcinoma cells, particularly in humans. This point gives some clinical relevance to the model developed here.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests