Reviewer's report

Title: High expression level and nuclear localization of Sam68 are associated with progression and poor prognosis in colorectal cancer

Version: 2 Date: 14 October 2012

Reviewer: Per Pfeiffer

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It is impressing that the authors have evaluated cell lines and FFPE tissue at the RNA and protein level. They have compared normal tissue and tumor tissue. However, the study is not acceptable for publication at least not in the present form for several reasons.

What was the primary aim of the study?

Why did the authors include stage 1 to 4? The patients did not receive pre-op therapy but the authors do not report on post-op therapy.

Page 3

“However, lymph node metastases and/or liver metastases are present in approximately 20% of CRC patients at diagnosis”

Not correct

Page 7

How was 231 pts changed to 224. How was patients selected?

“Prior patient consent and approval were obtained from the Institutional Research Ethics Committee”

Did the patients give written informed consent in 2000-2003 at the time of resection?

Patients who died of cancer (or other causes) were classified as dead. ????

Page 7

Please use median

Page 8

Immunohistochemistry was performed as previously described [24, 25].

Page 9

The degree of Sam68 staining was observed and evaluated as previously described [21, 23].

Sam68 staining was not described in ref 21 and 23

What is the difference between ref 21 and 24?
“To further investigate whether upregulation of Sam68 is linked to the clinical progression of CRC, 224 paraffin-embedded, archived primary CRC tissue samples and 43 matched lymph node metastases derived from relapsed CRC patients were examined using immunohistochemistry.”

What do the authors mean?

Page 12 and 16

Sma68?

Page 12

“In univariate Cox regression analysis, age, gender and tumor histology had no prognostic value for overall survival in CRC”

Not surprising that histology is not prognostic because to few pts.

Page 12

Spearman’s correlation analysis indicated that a high Sam68 expression level correlated significantly with poorer survival in CRC

Do not compare survival with Spearman

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests