Reviewer's report

Title: Vascular endothelial growth factor C promotes cervical cancer metastasis via up-regulation and activation of RhoA/ROCK-2/moesin cascade

Version: 3 Date: 8 February 2010

Reviewer: Johanna Tuomela

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript by He and coworkers investigates the role of VEGF-C in progression of cervical cancer.

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   YES: This study has interesting implications for progression of cervical cancer. The authors pose the question clearly.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   YES: The methods are appropriate and well described. However, the authors should briefly define in “Transfection experiments” first paragraph how the cells were treated. Or remove the description of the treatments to this paragraph.
   I suggest that the last unnecessary sentence of “Cell immunofluorescence”: “Pictures were photographed.” should be deleted.

3. Are the data sound?
   YES: The authors provide adequate data and the appropriate figures.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   YES

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   YES: The authors state their conclusions clearly, based upon sound rationale.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   YES: However, the authors could discuss about in vivo experiments. Could these in vitro results be confirmed with in vivo experiments?

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   Reference Joukov et al. 1996 should be added, when discussed of VEGF-C and its receptors.
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? 
YES: they are appropriate.

9. Is the writing acceptable? 
YES: The manuscript is mainly well-written, but needs some minor language check.

SUGGESTED REVISIONS:

Minor Essential Revisions:
Please, answer my questions above (in 2, 6, 7 and 9).
The actin rearrangement is detected already in 24h. It would be interesting to add time points between 0h and 24h in order to see in which time-point the changes in cytoskeletal remodeling can be seen. Please, add at least one time-point.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interest.