Reviewer's report

Title: Elevated IGFIR expression regulating VEGF and VEGF-C predicts lymph node metastasis in human colorectal cancer

Version: 1 Date: 7 October 2009

Reviewer: Markus Moehler

Reviewer's report:

The authors are analysing a very interesting question, whether the IGFIR may be associated with lymphangiogenesis and lymph node metastasis.

Unfortunately however, the presentation of the statistical analyses as well as the results within the abstract and through the full manuscript are still week. The abstract does not mention any details of the paper, i.e. the number of patients, the patients characteristics and the clinical status of the patients. Clinical pathological features are not clearly defined in the abstract.

Beginning with the background, many citations and important references to lymphangiogenic pathways (also like VEGF-D) are missing.

VEGF is always mentioned, but not clearly defined, whether it means really VEGF-A.

Is the interest of the authors only to analyse the markers on their prognostic value? However evidently, the data are made retrospectively. This should be mentioned. Could it be even predictive for a treatment intervention? This is not analysed or answered.

The results are not satisfying. Here the expression of corresponding VEGF-Rs are not analysed or discussed.

In the results, the most important part, the survival data and the treatment of these patients and their correlation with the markers is missing.

Also, IGF1R pathways their interaction with VEGF-C or VEGF is not discussed or analysed.

A blockade of IGF-1 induced VEGF and VEGF-C expression should at least be presented to highlight the association in the cell culture.

Overall, the manuscript is interesting but the actual presentation with week abstract is not acceptable for publication. A major revision is necessary.