Reviewer's report

Title: Overexpression of CDC25B, CDC25C and phospho-CDC25C (Ser216) in vulvar squamous cell carcinomas are associated with malignant features and aggressive cancer phenotypes

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Reviewer: Yasuhiro Ito

Reviewer's report:

Wang et al. investigated CDC25s in vulvar squamous cell carcinomas. Although interesting, several issues are present requiring a revision.

1. Tables and presentation in the Results are too messy. Specificity for antibodies should be presented at the beginning of the Results. Table 3 should be presented prior to Tables 1 and 2.

2. All normal tissues highly expressed CDC25A, whereas decreased CDC25A expression was seen in 49% of carcinomas. CDC25A expression did not relate to any clinicopathological features, including patient prognosis. That is all we know from their studies for CDC25A. The part of CDC25A should be deleted from Table 1. Authors should make a discussion why almost half of carcinomas showed decreased CDC25A expression in the Discussion.

3. Similar to CDC25A, little clinical and physiological significance could be found for CDC25B, because only 16% of carcinoma overexpressed it. Although expression level was directly linked to carcinoma differentiation, the incidence of CDC25B overexpression was still low at 28% in poorly differentiated carcinoma. Thus, data regarding CDC25B should also be deleted from Table 1.

4. In normal tissue, only a weak CDC25C and phospho-CDC25C could be seen in the cytoplasms. Data regarding CDC25C can be left as they are in Table 1. Although carcinoma tissues expressed phospho-CDC25C both in the nuclei and cytoplasms, authors should present data only about the cytoplasms and nuclei in Table 2.

5. Authors should emphasize the data about CDC25C and phospho-CDC25C in the Results and Discussion (also Tables) and condense or delete others. Otherwise, readers might miss the point authors want to emphasize.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

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