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

Version: 1 Date: 11 February 2010

Reviewer: Barbara Tringler

Reviewer’s report:

The present, retrospective study by Zhihui et al. reports on the expression of CDC25 subtypes in vulvar squamous cell carcinomas. CDC25 has been described to play a crucial role in cell cycle regulation. The aim of this study was to evaluate the importance of CDC25 in the pathogenesis of vulvar cancer and to verify the prognostic value of CDC25 subtypes in this cancer type.

The strength of this paper is that it is the first study ever focusing on the expression of CDC25 isoforms in a large number of vulvar cancer cases and correlating the results with malignant cancer features. The study is well designed, clearly constructed and the quality of the immunohistochemical staining is very high. Results have shown that CDC25C and phosphor-CDC25C (Ser216) overexpression was associated with advanced tumor stage, presence of lymph node metastasis, large tumor diameter and poor differentiation. However, CDC25A, CDC25B and CDC25s may not have potential to serve as a prognostic marker in vulvar carcinogenesis.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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 interests.