Reviewer’s report

Title: Increased expression of MMP9 is involved in poor prognosis in nasopharyngeal carcinoma

Version: 1 Date: 16 February 2010

Reviewer: hela ben nasr

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- Major Compulsory Revisions:

In the current manuscript the authors studied the expression of MMP-9 in NPC and its correlation with clinicopathological parameters of the disease. The manuscript is acceptable and the results interesting.

1-Some errors are present in the text such as involved (title). The manuscript should be checked for typing errors and english spelling improved.

2-The authors should indicate the histology of the tumors (undifferentiated,…).

3-The authors should include in the discussion section the impact of the heterogeneity of nasopharyngeal tissues on mRNA extraction : what is the origin of the MMP-9 mRNA in NP tissues and NPC tissues (epithelial cells, lymphocytes…).

4-Using immunohistochemistry, MMP-9 expression was found predominantly in the cytoplasme and is involved in the destruction of the basal membrane. Since a significant association has been found with N it will be interesting to discuss this result.

5-The discussion section should be revised and improved. The authors present only the littérature linked to their study and only report their results at the end of the manuscript (there’s no discussion of the results).

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