Reviewer’s report

Title: Correlation of NF-kappaB signal pathway with tumor metastasis of human head and neck squamous cell carcinoma

Version: 2 Date: 21 July 2010

Reviewer: Chann Lagadec

Reviewer’s report:

No Major compulsory

Minor essential Revisions:

"3. Authors should explain why Aurun et al. 2009 could explain that NF-kB inhibition induced a dramatic decrease of viability? Could identical genetic background (cells coming from the same parental line) explain this specificity? Authors should used others established cells lines (TSCC and OSC-4).

Concerning to this question, we have reviewed the paper mentioned (Arun P, et al. Clin Cancer Res, 2009) and agree with the reviewer’s comments that NF-kappa B inhibition induced a dramatic decrease of viability. Our results have not been conflict with the paper from Arun et al, the rate of apoptosis in Tca8113 and TL cells treated with PDTC or BAY 11-7085 was increased compared to the control group, and significantly increased in TNF# plus PDTC or plus BAY 11-7085 group. However, we found that the lower metastatic cell line Tca8113 and higher metastatic cell line TL had the similar response to the NF-kB inhibitors. So we considered that there was some other mechanism for inhibiting Tb and TL cells metastasis to lung or lymph nodes by NF-kappa B inhibition besides inducing cell apoptosis (e.g. VEGF and MMP9 down-regulation or p65 phosphorylation at serine 539). Furthermore, we agree with the reviewer’s concern, identical genetic background of the Tca8113 and TL cells may be one of the reasons. Our previous data of apoptosis analysis show that similar results have been attained in TSCC and OSC-4 cell lines (data not shown), in this manuscript we have only presented the results from Tca8113 and TL cells since the manuscript page limited."

For this part, Supplementary section have be used...

Discretionary Revision:

Title: change NF-kB, remove the underline

p2, last line: need a space between Cavity and &

p14 line 25: change metastatic for metastatic

p18: Homogenize fonts

ref 3 need a space before TNF
change TNF- by TNF-alpha

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests