Reviewer's report

Title: N-terminal and C-terminal Heparin-binding Domain Polypeptides Derived from Fibronectin Reduce Adhesion and Invasion of Liver Cancer Cells

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Reviewer: Liliane Gattegno

Reviewer's report:

The experimental study presented by N. Tang et al. is interesting as it analyses some of the underlying mechanisms leading to adhesion and invasion of hepatic carcinoma cells.

Some additional experimental data are necessary before publication:

1-The different assays using FN or the recombinant peptides as potential inhibitors have to be performed with more than two different concentrations of inhibitors in order to demonstrate the dose dependency of the effects. In addition, different concentrations of antibodies must also be tested.

Moreover, I am not sure that the antibodies tested, really blocked adhesion of the cells to FN substrate, they rather strongly inhibited this adhesion (see page 9, lane 4 from the top and figure 2).

2-page 10, lane 1 from the top: That the lung metastasis of the cells is slightly but significantly inhibited has to be mentioned.