Reviewer's report

Title: Comparison of thymidine phosphorylase expression and prognostic factors in gallbladder and bile duct cancer

Version: 1 Date: 9 June 2010

Reviewer: Wen-ming Cong

Reviewer's report:

1. There is a significant difference in the incidence of perineural invasion between GB cancer (23.0%) and BDC (69.7%). However, normally, more neural tissues could be seen in the bile duct wall than in the gallbladder wall because of diverse anatomical sites.

2. The authors should add not only univariate, but also multivariate Cox regression analysis in the study.

3. It is interesting to see that the authors hypothesize that “high expression of thymidine phosphorylase (TP) by gallbladder cancer results in a higher response rate to capecitabine by gallbladder cancer than bile duct cancer”. In discussion, the authors reviewed that “TP expression was significantly higher in GB cancer than in BDC. This result can explain why these two cancers have shown different response rates to capecitabine combination chemotherapy in many clinical trials. TP represents the rate-limiting enzyme in the activation of 5'-DFUR and capecitabine.” However, based on this consideration, why the authors did not design a correlation between the TP expression and the treatment response of capecitabine to GB cancer and BDC. I hope that the authors can add such additional clinical data to support their consideration, which is the highlight of this work.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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.