Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Insulin-like growth factor 2 mRNA binding protein 3 (IGF2BP3) expression in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma correlates with poor survival

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 23 September 2009

**Reviewer:** hitoshi tsuda

**Reviewer’s report:**

Schaeffer DF et al. reported that IGF2BP3 expression is correlated with patient prognosis in pancreatic adenocarcinoma. The study is novel and of interest. Several comments are addressed.

Major compulsory revisions

1. The definition and description on IGF2BP3 expression should be consistent throughout the manuscript. In title, the authors mention simply “expression”. In materials and methods, they defined the IGF2BP3 status into positive (overexpressed) and negative (not overexpressed). In figure 1, the authors describe the status as high-level positivity and low-level positivity.

2. The authors showed the status of IGF2BP3 was correlated with patient prognosis and grade. There are other conventional prognostic factors, i.e., clinical stage, tumor resectability, and performance status of patients. Therefore, they should try to perform multivariate analyses including these factors and IGF2BP3 and grade, in order to test independent prognostic significance of IGF2BP3.

3. The judgment of IGF2BP3 status was performed by one pathologist. They should mention about interobserver reproducibility of the judgment.

Discretionary revisions

1. Because IGF2BP3 gene is located on chromosome 7p, it would be interesting to mention on the EGFR expression, that is also located on 7p. The comparison of IGF2BP3 and EGFR statuses in pancreatic cancers would be of interest.

Minor essential revisions

1. In the section of immunohistochemistry in materials and methods, they describe only "Tuscon, AZ", without providing the name of company.

2. In the part of conclusion in Abstract, the sentence “Although IGF1BP3 … in RCC and ovarian CCC.” does not appear necessary.

**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.