Reviewer’s report

Title: Mutually exclusive expression of DLX2 and DLX5/6 in human mammary carcinoma cell lines and experimental metastasis.

Version: 1 Date: 22 September 2009

Reviewer: Joseph Pinzone

Reviewer’s report:

Morini, et al submitted an article titled: "Mutually exclusive expression of DLX2 and DLX5/6 in human mammary carcinoma cell lines and experimental metastasis." in which they investigated the expression of DLX2, DLX5, and DLX6 in MDA-MB-231 cells in vitro, and in an in vivo metastasis model using subcutaneous and intracardiac injections. In addition, they mined a microarray database to examine expression in human breast carcinomas.

Their findings are important and include expression of DLX2 in MDA-MB-231 cells in vitro and in subcutaneous nodules, and DLX5 and DLX6 in bone and lung metastases. In the microarray database there was mutually exclusive expression of DLX2 and DLX5 and DLX2 and DLX 5 expression correlated with

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Please reevaluate the title, and consider rewording to better reflect the findings. For example: “Mutually exclusive expression of DLX2 and DLX5/6 is associated with primary breast adenocarcinoma and metastases, respectively.”
2. Change the two uses of the word “mime” to “mimic” in the abstract.
3. Please describe the decision to use subcutaneous injections as opposed to subcutaneous orthotopic injections into the mammary fat pad.
4. Page 3. Typo: please change “2,2%” to 2.2%"

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.