Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of BMI-1 and Mel-18 in breast tissue - a diagnostic marker in patients who have already been diagnosed with breast cancer

Version: 1 Date: 31 August 2010

Reviewer: Naoki N Watanabe

Reviewer's report:

Major comments: In this study the authors found that Bmi-1 gene expression is already upregulated in adjacent normal tissues in breast cancer patients compared to the patients with fibroadenoma and healthy women. In contrast, the gene expression of Mel-18, an inhibitor protein of Bmi-1, was downregulated in above population. This finding is quite novel and measurement of Bmi-1 gene expression would be useful for the screening of high risk population for breast cancer.

Minor comments: The authors should describe the comparison with previous reports. At least, the study by Saeki et al. should be discussed. They investigated Bmi-1 gene expression in adjacent non-cancerous tissues and cancerous tissues from breast cancer patients. In their study, gene expression in cancerous tissues was 10-times higher than in non-cancerous tissues. The authors should discuss the reason for the difference between the results of them and that of the authors.

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.