Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of ZIC family genes in meningiomas and other brain tumors

Version: 1 Date: 3 November 2009

Reviewer: jianzhong li

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- Major Compulsory Revisions
  1. Page 9, paragraph 3: In the three meningioma cases, the ZIC1, ZIC2 and ZIC5 mRNA levels were 2- to 3.5- fold, 2-to 4.7- fold, and 3- to 8-fold higher, respectively, than those in the whole brain. However, Figure 1B shows that ZIC5 mRNA level in only one of the three meningioma cases is higher than the level in the whole brain. Please explain.

- Minor Essential Revisions
  1. It would be helpful to make the conclusion (ZIC1, ZIC2, and ZIC5 are highly expressed in meningiomas.) analyzing more meningioma cases than three cases.

- Discretionary Revisions
  1. It would be helpful for evaluating ZIC1–5 mRNA levels using real-time quantitative RT-PCR. This could help in assessing mRNA level.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.