Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of PINCH expression on survival in colorectal cancer patients with or without adjuvant chemotherapy

Version: 2 Date: 27 September 2010

Reviewer: Buelent Polat

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Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. Is it known by which factors the PINCH expression itself is influenced?

2. In table 4 there are 101 patients with rectal cancer of whom only one patient was treated with radiotherapy. A rather low rate since there were about 100 patients presenting with a stage III disease. Were the others ineligible for adjuvant treatment?

3. In the discussion chapter you give some interesting suggestions why a strong PINCH staining could be associated with worse prognosis. Did you also look for a co-expression of the other factors like Nck-2, ILK, MMPs, Fibronectin or VEGF in your tumour specimens?

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Please cite the software used for statistical analysis in your materials and methods section.

2. In table 2 you present the data of 146 patients, but in the text, e.g. on page 5 it says that 149 samples of adjacent normal mucosa are available. Also in table 2 under differentiation you grouped into well + moderate + poor vs. mucinous. In the text on page 5 the groups are good and moderate vs. poor, mucinous and signet-ring cell.

Similarly please review the patient numbers in table 4. In the text a number of 251 specimens is given but in the table a maximum of 241 is reached.

3. Page 14, second section: “…29 patients received adjuvant chemotherapy.“ Please check the patient numbers since in table 1 only 27 patients had adjuvant chemotherapy.

4. Was there also a significant difference in PINCH expression between the distant normal mucosa and the primary tumour or the metastasis?

Discretionary Revisions:

1. Please consider in table 4 to write “inflammatory infiltration” as a heading instead of “Infiltration” alone.
2. Since there was no significant relationship of PINCH expression with the use of adjuvant chemotherapy in the multivariate analysis you could consider changing your manuscript title into "Impact of PINCH expression on survival in colorectal cancer patients".

**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