Reviewer’s report

Title: Expression of Tissue factor in Adenocarcinoma and Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Uterine Cervix: Implications for immunotherapy with hI-con1, a factor VII-IgGFc chimeric protein targeting tissue factor

Version: 2  Date: 21 March 2011

Reviewer: Haim Werner

Reviewer’s report:

In this manuscript, Cocco et al evaluated the expression of Tissue Factor (TF) in cervical cancer and the potential of hI-con1, an antibody-like molecule against TF, as a potential immunotherapy against primary cervical cancer cell lines. TF is a transmembrane receptor for coagulation factor VII. TF expression was addressed by immunohistochemistry, qRT-PCR and flow cytometry. Cytotoxicity of hI-con1 was assessed by chromium release assays.

The authors report that TF was expressed in 100% of the tumor tissues tested by IHC and cervical carcinoma cell lines assayed by qRT-PCR, but not in normal cervical keratinocytes. All primary cervical cancer cell lines tested overexpressing TF were highly sensitive to the antibody-like molecule. Low doses of interleukin-2 increased the cytotoxic effect induced by hI-con1.

This is a well-designed, straightforward study. Given the poor results of most therapies in recurrent cancer, this study may be of clinical relevance for the treatment of cervical cancer refractory to standard modalities.

Minor points:
Figure 4: please insert asterisks above right (black) column to denote statistically significant differences versus ‘no IL-2’ (as stated in the Legend to figure).

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.