Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Expression of endosialin is associated with the progression and with the more aggressive biological characters of rectal cancers with a clinical trial of preoperative radiotherapy

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 1 April 2010

**Reviewer:** Hellmut Augustin

**Reviewer’s report:**

The authors have improved the statistical representation of the data. However, the question still remains if Endosialin expression occurs in epithelial tumors. Expression of Endosialin in pericytes, fibroblast and cells of mural origin has been adequately addressed. Thus, the expression of Endosialin in epithelial tumors which is a new finding of this study needs to be unambiguously shown. Finally, e-mail correspondence cannot be taken as evidence and the message has no direct relation with the content of the manuscript.

**Major compulsory revision:**

In Figure 1D/page 10, the authors suggest that the epithelial tumor cells are Endosialin-positive. Can the authors confirm that the cells stained for Endosialin are in fact epithelial cells by costaining with epithelial specific antigens in comparable sections? It can also be concluded that the staining in Figure 1D is of fibroblasts or pericytes and not exclusively tumor cells. Thus, a co-staining for Endosialin and a fibroblast/pericyte marker would be urgently suggested to exclude this possibility.

**Minor compulsory revisions:**

Page 2: The background section in the abstract needs to be written with out grammatical errors.

In the discussion section, the reference to COX2 in the last line of Discussion/page 12 is written in past tense which needs to be corrected.

Endosialin which is the focus of the current study is written wrongly several times in the manuscript (e.g., on page 14/ line 2 and again on page 15/ line 3).

The last sentence in the discussion section needs to be rewritten.

Importantly, the authors should remove common grammatical errors and spelling mistakes still present throughout the paper.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.