Reviewer's report

Title: Characterization of genetic rearrangements in esophageal squamous carcinoma cell lines by a combination of M-FISH and array-CGH: Further confirmation of some split genomic regions in primary tumors.

Version: 5 Date: 13 June 2012

Reviewer: Ruth MacKinnon

Reviewer's report:

Comments:
This is a very comprehensive study reporting a large amount of data. The manuscript is improved but the following suggestions are made.

Compulsory revisions
1. Background paragraph 2: sentence 3 does not make sense (2 time phrases).
2. Results – copy number aberrations: List of losses and gains – authors can refer to the table instead of repeating these lists. List of gains in other cell lines – this would be easier to follow if each region was listed with its frequency.
3. Page 11, 4th line: “nearly the 67-72 Mb” – the meaning is not clear.
4. Correlation between split regions and clinicopathological characteristics. Have the authors investigated the relationship between 11q13 amplification and LNM?
5. FRA11A is a rare fragile site. If breakage at a rare fragile site is being suggested this should be mentioned or discussed (as it would mean carriers are at a greater risk).

Discretionary revisions:
1. The English is still a little cumbersome but as it can be understood it is acceptable.

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'