Reviewer’s report

Title: Hypoxic enhancement of exosome release by breast cancer cells

Version: 1 Date: 3 July 2012

Reviewer: Eric Metzen

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King and colleagues report on the secretion of exosomes by cultured breast cancer cells which is apparently hypoxia-inducible. It is also demonstrated convincingly that the transcription factor HIF is involved in this induction. In addition, it is shown that microRNA-210 is secreted in a hypoxia-inducible manner in the exosomes.

The authors follow a clear hypothesis, the data are well-controlled and support the conclusions drawn.

One additional experiment is suggested as a discretionary revision which would add to the novelty and to the impact of the manuscript:

Would conditioned, i.e. exosome containing cell culture media from hypoxic as compared to normoxic cells stimulate proliferation of cultured tumor cells more efficiently? This experiment could demonstrate a hypoxia-inducible, autocrine effect mediated by exosomes.

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