Reviewer's report

Title: Human alpha-defensin (DEFA) gene expression helps to characterise benign and malignant salivary gland tumours.

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Reviewer: Nikolai Lisitsyn

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-Major Compulsory Revisions

'Human alpha-defensin (DEFA) gene expression helps to characterise benign and malignant salivary gland tumours' by Jochen Winter et al. is a research paper aimed at analysis of expression of genes coding for neutrophil alpha defensins 1/3 and 4, as well as at investigation of the gene encoded proteins.

The paper is poorly organized, badly written, and not acceptable for publication in the current form. Several issues need to be addressed:

1) Abstract. Abstract is badly written and both conclusions are not well substantiated.

2) Introduction. Paragraph one (P1). Listing of salivary tumor types in latin seems inappropriate.

Defensines section (correct word – defensins):

P1: there are mature, prepro, and proforms with different MWs.

P2: theta defensins should be mentioned.

P3: “involvement of defensins…for beta-defensins” should be better expressed. First sentence should be combined with the next one.

3) Methods. Sentence three in Quantitative realtime-PCR section is unclear and should be omitted.

4) Results. Section is poorly written: no explanations, just a list of tables (repeating their content) and figures. Better to combine results and discussion sections and to place Tables 1 and 2 in the supplement.

5) Discussion.

P1: “the transcripts of both genes were visualized by immunostaining”. This statement is obviously wrong.

P3: Better to move historical facts in the introduction.

P4: Better to move in the introduction.

P5 and 6: Too long (P6, the last paragraph, is one and a half pages long) and mostly useless –there is no discussion of molecular and cellular biology.

There is no description of numerous figures, which are useless.
- Discretionary revisions.
Reference one seems to be useless for most of the readers.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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