Reviewer's report

Title: Blood vessel hyperpermeability and pathophysiology in human tumour xenograft models of breast cancer: a comparison of ectopic and orthotopic tumours

Version: 1 Date: 26 July 2012

Reviewer: Hiroshi Maeda

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions

FITC- or Rhodamine B-labeled albumin may be better fit which has much better single dispersity. (Usually dextran is not so good. May be pleased clarify its purity.)

Authors attributed the cause of EPR effect primarily to the architectural pathology of tumor vessels, however, numbers of vascular mediators such as bradykinin, nitric oxide etc, play crucial roles, which affect normal blood vessels surrounding tumor cells as well. This account should be included in the introduction (and discussion), which can be found in the following references.

Authors should have presented also the data of normal tissues other than the liver which would highlight better or more EPR positive accumulation of FITC-dextran in tumors.

(2) J. Wu et al, Cancer Res. 58, 155-165 (1998)

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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 interest.