Reviewer’s report

Title: Increased phosphorylation of histone H3 at serine 10 is involved in Epstein-Barr virus latent membrane protein-1-induced carcinogenesis of nasopharyngeal carcinoma

Version: 2 Date: 26 January 2013

Reviewer: CHENG-PING WANG

Reviewer’s report:

Interesting article. I think this article can be accepted for publication in BMC cancer after minor revision.

1. In abstract result section, "Immunohistochemical analysis revealed that the expression of p-H3Ser10 was significantly higher than that in chronic nasopharyngitis (p <0.05) and normal nasopharynx tissues (p <0.001)." is not clear. Which is higher? I guess NPC tissue.

2. In result part, subtitle "Phosphorylation of histone H3 at Ser10 was involved in LMP1-induced CNE1 cell transformation", I think the figures you indicated are figure 3, not figure 2.

3. In page 13, CNEIGL cells? CNE1GL cells is correct.

4. In discussion about "Compared with normal nasopharynx tissues, chronic nasopharyngitis exhibited a higher level of phosphorylated histone H3 at Ser10. This revealed that the increasing phosphorylation of histone H3 might have effects on the malignant transformation of NPC cells and may be considered as a potential indicator reflecting progression of NPC", actually, I did not get it. Chronic nasopharyngitis is not a mid way between normal nasopharynx and NPC, Why it is a potential indicator reflecting progression of NPC?

5. The discussion and the result seem to be duplicated. May need some revisions to reduce it.

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

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'