Reviewer’s report

Title: Expression of Follicle-Stimulating Hormone receptor by the vascular endothelium in tumor metastases

Version: 3 Date: 14 February 2013

Reviewer: Renato Franco

Reviewer’s report:

Siraj et al have analyzed FSH receptor expression in a wide series of metastasis of the main human tumors in different anatomic sites. They found that FSH-R is expressed in the blood vessels of most metastasis, with a higher density of positive vessels in metastasis from lung and renal cancer. The number of cases is highly significant, but some major points should be better addressed.

- In the Results paragraph (Metastases contain FSH-R-positive vessels subparagraph), the authors report the expression of the receptor in the deeper area of primary tumors. Did they analyze primary tumors too? The authors should be use accordingly the term ‘primary tumors’, that should be confusing in this context. In addition I believe that it could be interesting if the authors provided some informations about the comparison of FSH-R expression in both primary and metastatic tumors, also if it is possible in a smaller series of cases, even if in a series of a single tumor, in order to define if this expression could be observed in the primary tumors. Moreover the series could be matched with a series of prognostically no metastatic tumors of the same series. Alternatively since the authors have analyzed a very wide series of primary tumors with FSH-R (N Engl J Med. 2010 Oct 21;363(17):1621-30.), the comparison should be provided in the discussion paragraph, if a series of primary tumors in the previous series correspond to a series of metastasis of this paper.

- The authors should provide methodological assessment of the expression of FSH-R in the vessels of the tumors front when they analyzed breast metastasis in a TMA.

Minor point:
Comments about epilepsytogen brain should be removed.

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:
No declaration of competing interest