Reviewer's report

Title: ADAR2 editing activity in newly diagnosed versus relapsed pediatric high-grade astrocytomas

Version: 2 Date: 28 July 2012

Reviewer: jacques grill

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1) The authors mention a relationship between grade and ADAR2 editing activity why did they focus on the comparison between diagnosis and relapse of high-grade gliomas only. They could have expanded easily the cohort with astrocytomas of lower grade and this could have strengthened their findings.
2) The authors focus on the editing of five genes whose contribution to oncogenesis is not clear. Could they comment on that? Eventually test other genes susceptible to editing with a more direct effect on oncogenesis?
3) It is said in the manuscript that the relationship between editing and ADAR2 expression is not necessarily linear? Is ADAR2 activity equivalent for any gene susceptible to be edited this way?

Minor Essential Revisions
1) How do the authors explain why RNA editing of the target genes is similar at diagnosis and at relapse while ADAR2 levels are decreasing in 3 out of 4 cases?
2) Is ADAR2 level prognostic in pediatric astrocytomas, especially high-grade ones? There is plenty of gene-expression data out-there to test this issue.
3) If the only patient recovering editing activity has a good prognosis, this should stimulate the authors to study non recurring patients as well.

Discretionary Revisions
Is there an antibody to detect ADAR2? Where is it found in the tumor?

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 competing interest