Reviewer's report

Title: Chemokine (C-X-C) ligand 1 (CXCL1) protein expression is increased in aggressive bladder cancers

Version: 1 Date: 23 May 2013

Reviewer: Ellen Zwarthoff

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined? YES
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described? YES
3. Are the data sound? YES
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? YES
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? YES
6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated? YES
7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished? YES
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? YES
9. Is the writing acceptable? YES

The MS describes overexpression of CXCL1 in aggressive bladder cancers. In univariate analysis stage and CXCL1 expression were significant predictors of disease-specific survival. In multivariate analysis, stage was the only significant predictor. Hence it does not seem that there is a role for CXCL1 as a prognostic marker for DSS. However, since its expression is high in aggressive tumors and absent in normal tissues, it could present a target for future therapies as the authors rightfully state. It would be interesting to test this marker in a series of pT1 tumors and study its association with progression-free survival. To be able to predict progression in this subgroup would solve a major clinical problem.

Minor essential revision: references 28 and 29 refer to the correct first authors, but not to the correct papers. The correct papers are mentioned in figure 4.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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