Reviewer's report

Title: Activation of SNAT1/SLC38A1 in human breast cancer: correlation with p-Akt overexpression

Version: 1 Date: 8 January 2013

Reviewer: Ja Seung Koo

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Major Compulsory Revisions

This study demonstrated that SNAT1 was overexpressed in breast cancer and increased SNAT1 was related with pAKT. This study has some value to publish, however, some revision is required.

1. This study included 70 cases of breast cancer for TMA study from 2007 to 2011 years, but the number of cases is very small. In general, TMA study included more than 200 cases for breast cancer.

2. In method, ‘two pathologists’ should be specified.

3. Add the number of approval for ethical review committee

4. In method, interpretation of IHC results for SNAT1, pAKT was performed by ‘two individuals’. ‘two individuals’ should be specified.

5. Is there any reference for IHC interpretation system used in this study? Add the reference if exist.

6. In general, clinicopathologic parameters for breast cancer included ER, PR, HER-2 status, ki-67 LI. Add this parameters.

7. In this study, there is no survival analysis for SNAT1, pAKT status. Add survival analysis for SNAT1 and pAKT by Kaplan-Meier curve and multivariate Cox analysis.

8. Formal of table1 should be changed as below.

Factors Total
N= (%) SNAT1
Positive Negative p-value
n=(%) n=(%)

Age

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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'