Reviewer's report

Title: IGF-1 Receptor and IGF Binding Protein-3 Might Predict Prognosis of Patients with Resectable Pancreatic Cancer

Version: 3 Date: 7 May 2013

Reviewer: Sabine Rohrmann

Reviewer's report:

Major Revisions:
- Description of the Cox model in the Methods section: What is the observation period? Which variables were the time variables used in the Cox model? Which factors were adjusted for in the multivariate model?
- Description of results: The authors use the word "correlation" or "were correlated". However, strictly speaking they did analyze correlation, but examined associations.
- Results: "The prognosis of patients with IGF1R-negative and IGFBP3-negative PDAC was significantly correlation with overall survival (p=0.218)" The p-value is not < 0.05... why is stated that there was a significant correlation?
- Discussion: "The prognosis of patients with IGF1R-positive and IGFBP3-negative PDAC was poorer than that of other groups, especially in patients with stage II tumors." This statement is in contrast to the following sentences: "The IGF1R-positive/IGFBP3-negative subgroup was the group with the best prognosis."
- The comparisons in the bottom diagrams of figures 2&3 are not well explained. Please give the rationale for these comparisons (IGF1R-negative or IGFBP3-positive vs. IGF1R-positive and IGFBP3-negative and IGF1R-negative and IGFBP3-positive vs. IGF1R-positive or IGFBP3-negative).

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.