Reviewer's report

Title: Metformin induces an intracellular reductive state that protects oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma cells against cisplatin but not copper-bis(thiosemicarbazones)

Version: 1 Date: 11 February 2014

Reviewer: Ljubica Harhaji

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Major Compulsory Revisions

1. I do not see the point of using metformine with copper-bis(thiosemicarbazones), since combined treatment did not exert more antitumor activity than copper-bis(thiosemicarbazones) applied alone.

2. If the authors claim that metformin protects tumor cells from cisplatin through increase in lactate production, intracellular NAD(P)H and low molecular weight reduced thiols, the effect of metformin on these molecules should also be measured in presence of cisplatin. (cisplatin vs. cisplatin+metformin)

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Statistic significance marked with * in Fig. 4A should be between C and C+B instead of between C+B and C+B+M. The letters on X-axis are moved to the left.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.