Reviewer's report

Title: Serum levels of Dickkopf-1 are an independent prognostic marker in prostate cancer

Version: 2 Date: 30 June 2014

Reviewer: George Thalmann

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1) The authors report on DKK-1 expression as a prognostic marker. In the TMA DKK-1 was not prognostic. The fact of the high expression in the adjacent tissue needs some discussion. Why? What does this mean? How about bone metastases?
2) For the serum test the sample size seems somewhat small. What was the power calculation?
3) Why would DKK-1 in the serum be predictive and not in the tissue? Are there splice variants? A western blot would eventually provide more information.
4) The manuscript is descriptive and shows no functional data that would strengthen the authors point.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'