Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic and diagnostic value of epithelial to mesenchymal transition markers in pulmonary neuroendocrine tumors

Version: 3 Date: 3 December 2013

Reviewer: Katia Leite

Reviewer's report:

Authors studied the epithelial mesenchymal transition in lung neuroendocrine tumors using immunohistochemistry and related expression of the proteins related to EMT with survival.

The studied was well designed. The IHC reaction seems good as exposed in the figures.

I have only minor commentaries:

Proliferation index using Ki67 is a routine practice nowadays to better classify neuroendocrine tumors. I suggest you to perform Ki67 to better characterize your cases.

The switch from E-chaderin to N-chaderin expression is a phenomenon already described in EMT. And, as you mentioned this was not observed in your study. But, interestingly only atypical carcinoids did not express N-chaderin. How do you interpret this occurrence? Since this result is controversial, discuss it better.

Please correct the first paragraph of page 7 regarding the use of commas (OR: 4.9; 95% CI: 1.70–14.60, p = 0.003), TWIST (OR: 3.10; 95% CI: 1.11–8.64, p = 0.031).

In table 2 specify results showing what parameter is related to better or worse survival instead of only showing p values.

Figures are good.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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 no conflict of interest