Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic implications in the shift of Syndecan-1 expression from the cell membrane to the cytoplasm in bladder cancer

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Reviewer: Daniela Marzioni

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The manuscript entitled “Prognostic implications in the shift of Syndecan-1 expression from the cell membrane to the cytoplasm in bladder cancer” by Miyake et al. is potentially interesting but unfortunately needs improvement.

Major Compulsory Revisions

The authors have evaluated the expression of SDC-1 in cancer and non-cancer bladder specimens using immunohistochemistry. In addition, the authors evaluated the levels of SDC-1 in urine of cancer and non-cancer patients by ELISA correlating the localization of SDC-1 in the bladder specimens with the presence of SDC-1 in the urine using two different patient cohorts. In this regard, it would be appropriate to analyse the levels of SDC-1 in the urine samples of the subjects used in the immunohistochemical study. In addition, the RT-PCR and quantitative western blotting should be performed to quantify the production of mRNA and the protein level of SDC-1 respectively by bladder tissue. These experiments will clarify if the cancer bladder tissues (low-grade and NMIBC) really produce more SDC-1 than the other tissues analysed in this study and if the SDC-1 in the urine really come from by bladder tissues.

As the SDC-1 is a transmembrane heparan sulfate proteoglycan with three different domains (extracellular, transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains) which of these has been detected by ELISA assay? This explanation is necessary to support the conclusions of the authors.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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