Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Adenoviral gene transfer of angiostatic ATF-BPTI inhibits tumour growth

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**Reviewer:** Prof Giampietro Gasparini

**Level of interest:** A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Advice on publication:** Accept after discretionary revisions

**General Comments:**

The paper by Lefesvre et al reports the results of an interesting original experimental study in the field of antiangiogenic therapy. The antitumor activity of adenoviral gene transfer of the angiostatic aminoterminal fragment of bovine pancreatic trypsin inhibitor (AFT-BPTI) (also known as aprotinin) was compared to that of the naturally occurring angiogenesis inhibitor endostatin in L44 and L42 lung cancer cell lines. Both in vitro and in vivo studies were performed.

**Specific comments:**

. As far as in vivo studies are concerned, taking into account that antiangiogenic therapy interacts both with the stroma and parenchyma components of a tumour and that microenvironments characteristics may influence its efficacy, it is strongly suggested that also an orthotopic tumor model is used.
. The effects of antiangiogenic therapy should be tested with treatments given at different times after tumour implantation, being tumour mass a critical variable for activity.
. Pharmacodynamics studies on the antiangiogenic and antitumor mechanisms of action of AFT-BPTI should be performed.
. Was the endostatin source and schedule of administration similar to those published by the Folkman ETMs group?
. The patterns of vascularisation mentioned on page 13 need to be referenced (Pezzella et al Am J Pathol 151: 1417-1423, 1997).

**Competing interests:**

None declared.