Reviewer's report

Title: Gene expression profile of AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma

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Reviewer: Patrick PS Moore

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

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

Replies to authors comments:

1. Comparison to existing SAGE libraries immensely strengthens this study. Suggest that close comparisons also be made to libraries by St. Croix et al (reference 22) which can be found at SAGENet (www.sagenet.org) for tumor specific endothelial markers. Adding these direct comparisons in Table 4, such as expression or lack thereof of TEMs or PEMs, will help make this a longer lasting work. The Access files are available here for download.

2. The semi-quantitative RT-PCR data just does not jive with the SAGE results and a northern should be used instead (e.g., Table 3. shows ca. 20% increased Tie-1 expression in KS vs. control whereas SAGE shows a 650% increase-13 vs. 2 tags). If quantitative real-time RT-PCR data is available, then this should be used. Figure 3 as it stands otherwise should be deleted since it is not meaningful.

3. Okay

4. Fine, but see comment 1 above.

5. Okay.

Competing interests:

None declared.