Reviewer's report

Title: Increased expression of integrin-linked kinase is associated with shorter survival in non-small cell lung cancer

Version: 1 Date: 15 September 2004

Reviewer: Miyake Masayuki

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1. The expression of Integrin-linked kinase(ILK) in non-small cell lung cancer(NSCLC) was judged by the immunohistochemistry, and then it was shown relationships between the results and the 5-years survival rates for patients with the strong ILK expression were shorter than patients with the weak ILK expression. This result was same as the report that other internal organs tumor was shown.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

? For Table1:
1) Total number of Tumor grade is wrong.
weak or none(38+37+16=91 not equal 93)
strong (9+15+14=38 not equal 41)
2) Total number of Lymphatic invasion is wrong.
weak or none(42+15=57 not equal 93)
3) It is necessary to show N stage by four stages of not N0 and N + but N0-N3.

? For Table2:
It is not possible to understand that T status, N status, Stage, Lymphatic invasion and Vascular invasion are <1 in the Relative risk. According to this table, the prognosis of T2 and T3 against T1 is 0.204 times. Besides it is not possible to understand that while T status progress, the prognosis is getting better.

? For Table3 ;
It is not good use Multivariate analysis, because N status is influenced by Lymphatic invasion.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Integrin-linked kinase (ILK) facilitates AKT and beta-catenin/LEF-1, suppresses E-cadherin. ILK regulates cyclin-D and cyclin-A, increases cell cycle progression and inhibits apoptosis.
ILK-mediated pathway that may enhance tumor progression is its regulation on MMP expression. It should be shown at least one relationship among these factors. Especially, the expression of MMP 9 should be paid more attention.

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes

**Declaration of competing interests:**

none