Reviewer’s report

Title: Translation elongation factor eEF1A2 is a potential oncogene that is overexpressed in two-thirds of breast tumors.

Version: 2 Date: 22 June 2005

Reviewer: anil sood

Reviewer’s report:

General
In this study, the authors evaluate the expression of eEF1A2 in normal and malignant breast tissues. This work presents novel information regarding the expression patterns of this protein. However, this paper could be strengthened by providing some additional information.

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

1. Page 2, Abstract. Under the background section, the authors state, We therefore sought to establish whether eEF1A2 might be a potential oncogene in breast cancer. Please modify this statement since your study only addresses expression patterns and did not specifically address whether it is an oncogene.

2. Page 4. Since you have generated new antibodies and this is apparently the first report with them, it would be helpful to have some details regarding how this antibody was generated and its specificity. What are the features of this antibody that confer specificity?

3. Page 5. What was the percentage of tumor cells versus stroma in the tumors analyzed by RT-PCR?

4. Page 8 and Table 1. Please show the actual Western blot rather than just listing presence or absence of protein in a table. Were the protein levels normalized to a housekeeping protein such as actin?

5. Page 8. It would be helpful to know the clinical and pathological features of the patients analyzed in this study such as tumor size, grade, lymph node status, adjuvant therapy, survival, etc.

6. Page 9. Since immunohistochemistry was performed on tissue microarrays, how many cuts per tumor were analyzed? Were any steps taken to account for heterogeneity in staining patterns? While the staining intensity is reported, what was the percentage of tumor cells staining?

7. Page 9. Please provide details regarding how p53 mutation status was determined. Was sequencing performed or were the samples analyzed only by immunohistochemistry?

8. Page 10. The authors mention possible associations of p53 mutation status and eEF1A2 staining in tumors. Were there any associations in your cell lines?

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1. Figure 1. Please list the tumor numbers on the figure.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests