Reviewer's report

Title: Survivin expression and its clinical significance in pancreatic cancer

Version: 1 Date: 21 June 2005

Reviewer: Kennichi Satoh

Reviewer's report:

General
This is an immunohistochemical study which examined survivin expression in pancreatic cancer and assessed the correlation of its expression with p53 or Bax expression and clinicopathological parameters. Although the authors found that survivin expression was not associated with p53 or Bax expression and clinical outcome, the author found that perineural invasion is significantly more common in the survivin-positive and venous invasion was significantly more common in the survivin-negative group. Survivin expression in pancreatic cancer has been shown to correlate with their aggressive phenotype such as poor survival, decreased apoptotic index or radioresistance, etc. Thus it is difficult to understand that negative survivin expression correlated with venous invasion.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
In figure 1B, intense survivin expression is seen in cancer cells. Although the authors state that normal glandular structures are negative, it is very difficult to find any normal glandular structure in this figure. The authors should show the pictures with lower power of view or indicated arrows.

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

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 limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.