Reviewer's report

Title: Survivin expression and its clinical significance in pancreatic cancer

Version: 1 Date: 29 June 2005

Reviewer: yoshinori nio

Reviewer's report:

General
The study is well designed, but the analyses are inadequate.

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

The authors analyzed the effects of survivin expression on survival by classifying the 3 groups, score 0, 1 and 2. However, judging from the figure 3 and tables, they can be classified into 2 groups, low expression (score 0 and 1) and high expression (score 2). The same things can be applied for Bax or p53 expression: for Bax, low (score 0 and 1) and high (score 2); and for p53, negative (score 0) and positive (score 1 and 2).
Survivin is thought to be associated with apoptosis, therefore the implication of survivin expression in relevance with Bax expression is interesting and should be analyzed in regard with the efficacy of chemotherapy.

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 whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No