Reviewer's report

Title: Abnormal expression and processing of the proprotein convertases PC1 and PC2 in human colorectal liver metastases.

Version: 1 Date: 6 May 2005

Reviewer: Laura Beretta

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting paper investigating the transcript, protein and protein cleavage expression profiles of two members of the proprotein convertases family (PC1 and PC2) in liver colorectal metastasis compared to unaffected and normal liver. The methods used combined RT PCR, immunoblot and immunohistochemistry. The results obtained with PC2 and 7B2 are very convincing and striking, showing a decreased amount of PC2 transcript and a concomitant increased cleavage of PC2 protein product in tumors and showing an increased amount of both 7B2 transcript and protein in tumors. However, the results are less convincing for PC1 as even though the mean of PC1 protein might be higher in tumors, Figure C shows a strong variation of the amount of PC1 in tumors with T1 presenting similar amounts of PC1 as normal and unaffected tissues. Statistical analysis and standard deviations should be presented in the manuscript and are lacking in all analysis.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'