Reviewer's report

Title: Cytokeratin 8/18 expression indicates a poor prognosis in squamous cell carcinomas of the oral cavity

Version: 1 Date: 5 July 2005

Reviewer: Kurt Werner W Schmid

Reviewer's report:

General

This is a straight forward study showing that both the expression of CK8/18 and increased CK19 expression are statistically related to poor clinical overall survival in multivariate analysis of patients suffereing from squamous cell carcinoma of the oral cavity.

The study was performed on a series of 308 histologically proven carcinomas. The study design is simple. The statistical analysis is sound. In the discussion particularly the authors point out that the study presented showed no correlation between the vimentin expression in squamous cell carcinomas of the oral cavity and overall survival, which is in contrast to previous reports.

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

The authors should, however, further discuss the clinical impact of their results; it would be intriguing to get more information about possible therapeutical consequences extracted from studies dealing with prognostic markers such as CK8/18 and CK19.

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests