**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Prognostic value of p27Kip1 expression in Basaloid Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the larynx.

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 12 April 2006

**Reviewer:** Vance Berger

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The statistical methods do not seem to play an overly pivotal role in this manuscript, and so I do not have much to contribute. The only comment, in fact, is the inconsistency between the method (step-wise elimination to build the predictive model) and the level of certainty with the resulting conclusions. In fact, step-wise elimination methods are considered (for good reason) to be preliminary steps, or hypothesis-generating. As such, they cannot be taken to be confirmatory, and the resulting model has to be taken as tentative. If a future study were to then use this same model and obtain similar findings, then one could claim that "p27 protein has been shown to be a significant independent prognostic factor". As of now, all that can be said is that there is a suggestion of this relationship, and so for the good of science, there should be further study.

In summary, the conclusions should reflect the methodology, and hence be more measured in the implied level of certainty.