Reviewer’s report

Title: The associated expression of Maspin and Bax proteins as a potential prognostic factor in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma

Version: 1 Date: 15 July 2006

Reviewer: Koichi Nagasaki

Reviewer’s report:

General
1. The authors proposed that the related expression of maspin and Bax may influence the susceptibility of tumor cholangiocytes to apoptosis and therefore would be involved in delaying IHCCA progression. To confirm this finding, staining of apoptotic cell should be done (For example Tunnel)

2. To analyze cholangiocarcinoma, why the authors did select the maspin gene from a pool of mRNA sequence identified by in silico screening?

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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 whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes