Reviewer's report

Title: Induction of plasminogen activator inhibitor type-1 (PAI-1) by hypoxia and irradiation in human head and neck carcinoma cell lines

Version: 2 Date: 7 June 2007

Reviewer: mike robbins

Reviewer's report:

General

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

The authors have responded to each of the concerns raised in the initial review, and have answered most of these accordingly. Concerns remain as to the conclusions drawn from these studies. The statement that "fractionated radiotherapy could render tumor cells...more aggressive and subsequently lead to increased metastasis." is not supported by the data presented in the manuscript. As the authors themselves show, the amount of PAI-1 secreted after reoxygenation decreased in the tumor cells. More importantly, it remains unclear whether or not the response of cells to a single dose of radiation is the same as that following a fractionated series of doses. This sentence should be deleted.

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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)

the term 2, 4, 8, 12, 16 20, 24 h can be revised to 2-24 h.

Page 10, para 1, line 6: I do not understand this last sentence that does not seem to add anything to the manuscript. Suggest this is removed.

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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 of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests