Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of CD80 and CD86 costimulatory molecules correlates with better survival in nasopharyngeal carcinoma

Version: Date: 23 January 2007

Reviewer: Gil Bar-Sela

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 paper “Expression of CD80 and CD86 costimulatory molecules correlates with better survival in nasopharynx carcinoma” by Cheng-Shyong Chang et al has some limitations.
1) No Multi-variant analysis is reported. Is it done? If not it should be. It is well established that the main prognostic factor in NPC is TNM stage (histology is not important in this study while no SCC NPC were studied).
2) The study reports about mean time of follow-up and not median. This should be corrects. I can’t understand how the study collected the patients with range of 1-62 months if it was done in 2001-02 and now is 2007.
3) The positive cases for CD80 and CD86 are almost the same. It should be presented as one group of 12 patients. It is known that those T cells antigens are usually presented together on the cell membrane.
4) Data about correlation between the staining for CD80/86 to the tests for T cells and dendritic cells should be done and presented.
5) Table 1+2 is hard to understand. There is too much unnecessary data. Only data about the total and the positive CD80/86 should be presented. The other data can be reported in short in the text.
6) Figure 5+6 should be one.
7) In the discussion it should be discussed the positive CD80/86 in other cancers and the importance of those finding.

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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)

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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, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.