Reviewer's report

Title: Antisense oligonucleotides and all-trans retinoic acid have a synergistic anti-tumor effect on oral squamous cell carcinoma

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Reviewer: Sugawara Akira

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

Xu et al. have demonstrated a synergistic effect of antisense oligonucleotides against hTR and ATRA on oral SCC. Basically, this article is interesting and well written. However, there are several points needed to be corrected/clarified.

1) In lane 7 of page 7, they need to clarify their method for ATRA administration (either orally, intra-peritoneal injection or intra-tumoral injection).
2) In lane 10 of page 7, they describe that the control group received no treatments. However, I think that the control is needed to be intra-tumoral injection of vehicle. Therefore, they need to use it as the control.
3) Regarding Figure 4G, although expression of Bax is similar among all groups, they need to clarify which group's data is used in the figure.

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.