Reviewer’s report

Title: p53 expression is significantly correlated with high risk of malignancy and epitheloid differentiation in gastrointestinal stromal tumors. An immunohistochemical study with 104 GISTs.

Version: 2 Date: 26 April 2008

Reviewer: Sonja E. E Steigen

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
There seems to be no need for major compulsory revisions.

Minor essential revisions:
Background:
- first paragraph - the authors state that 50% of the GISTs become malignant. GISTs are never really benign lesions, and a clarification about malignancy must be stated. Patients who relaps/get metastatic disease? Also references to this.
- first paragraph - Histological differentiantion and tumor localisation correlate with prognosis. Why not refer to Hornick and Fletcher 2007 and USE this for further grouping of the GISTs according to malignancy?
- first paragraph - little information about development of the malignancy potential.... You should maby refer to studies on p16 and GIST even though they are controversial. p16 is regarded as cell cycle regulator. Schneider-Stock et al 2005, Steigen et al 2008.

Material and methods:
Immunohistochemistry
What antibodies did you stain with? Stained the slides with KIT? You stained with CD34 because you say so later in the paper. Suddenly also Ki67 is mentioned, but has not been mentioned earlier. Should probably have been mentioned earlier as this is improtant for diagnosis. Did you only use KIT+ tumors? Clarify!

Results:
- first paragraph - the results of KiS5 are revealed. No previous information about KiS5. An antibody against Ki67 epitope? Did you stain with Ki67 or KiS5? Must be clarified.

Discussion:
- first paragraph - Too bad no mutation analyses have been done - mutations have been refered to several times how important they are.

- second paragraph - expression WERE not...., all three markers WERE.....
Discretionary Revisions:
Be updated on other studies.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**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.