Reviewer’s report

Title: Prognostic value analysis of urokinase-type plasminogen activator in oral squamous cell carcinoma: an immunohistochemical study

Version: 1 Date: 15 March 2008

Reviewer: Takashi T Takata

Reviewer’s report:

The authors examined immunoexpression of urokinase-type plasminogen activator receptor (uPAR) in 189 oral squamous cell carcinomas (OSCC) and compared it with clinicopathological parameters. They showed that uPAR immunoexpression correlated with tumor differentiation grade and survival rate. They concluded that uPAR expression could be used as prognostic parameter of OSCC.

General comments
The study was well organized and the results and discussion are reasonable. Although similar studies have been already published, this study using larger scale of OSCC cases provide additional data for the readers of the Journal.

Minor Essential Revisions
Title must be ‘Prognostic value of urokinase-type plasminogen activator receptor in…’, because the authors examined not uPA but uPAR, immunohistochemically.
‘Background’ must be shorten, especially the first paragraph of ‘Background’.
The last sentence of ‘Conclusion’ of ‘Abstract’ is not essential.
Fig. 2A should appear before Fig, 2B and 2C in the text.
Pathological significance of the analyses shown in Fig.3 is ambiguous. Discussion about the analyses should be done in ‘Discussion’.

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, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.