Reviewer's report

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

Bacchiocchi R et al.

General comments.
The manuscript will need a few changes in spelling and style. For example: page 4, 1st paragraph West Word should be changed by West World; page 8 2nd paragraph …detected in more then 2% should be changed by …detected in more than 2%; page 10, 2nd paragraph … life grater should be changed by… life greater...

Specific comments.
The main problem with this work is the data analysis. Authors have studied the number of tumor cells that express uPAR (continuous variable) and scored into two categories (discrete variable): 0 (#2% of positive cells) and 1 (> 2% of positive cells). Then they studied differences between groups of other variables (gender, grading, size, lymph node metastasis, staging…) measured in nominal scales with an ANOVA. This is a great error. ANOVA test is used to determines whether significant differences exist between means of samples (data measured in interval or ratio scale) and assumes normal distribution and equal variances for the samples. Here, authors studied variables measured in discrete scales, thus they do not have means to could be compared. They should perform contingency tables, not parametric statistical tests.

In the Results section (1st and 2nd paragraphs), authors introduce and repeat information that should be in the M&M section.

In the last paragraph of Results section we can read ...Kaplan-Meier curves .. showed a statistical correlation.. between survival and grade 1....This correlation was less evident with grade 2 and was not found with grade 3. Really, they only found statistical correlation between survival and grade 1. Relationship between survival and grades 2 and 3 were both not significant.

Table 2. All columns have a head, but not the last in the right. Furthermore, how is possible that Staging is not significant (p > 0.05), but all differences between pairs of categories are significant?.
Based upon this comments I think that this paper does not meet criteria necessary for a recommendation for acceptance for publication.

**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 limited interest

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

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

The answer of all these five questions is ‘NO’. Thus, I declare that I have no competing interests.