Reviewer's report

Title: A Survey of CK8 Expression in Head and Neck Epithelia

Version: 1 Date: 23 June 2008

Reviewer: Karel Smetana

Reviewer's report:

Authors demonstrate expression of keratin 8 in large group of patients with head and neck cancer. The expression of this type of keratin was as a potential prognostic marker was established earlier including papers of authors of this article. The validity of this report is based on the large group of evaluated patients that strongly supports the possible clinical employment. The text is clear, well documented by figures that are of the great quality. However, I recommend to more stress the proinvasive phenotype of cells exhibiting K8 in discussion. K8 expression can be induced by cancer associated fibroblast in normal nonmalignant keratinocytes (Lacina et al. Int J rad Biol 83: 837, 2008). The influence of tumor microenvironment should be also discussed.

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.