Reviewer's report

Title: Nuclear hBD-1 accumulation in malignant salivary gland tumours

Version: 1 Date: 19 February 2008

Reviewer: Katsuhiro Uzawa

Reviewer’s report:

This paper investigated the hBD-1, 2, 3, p53 and bcl-2 protein expression in healthy salivary gland tissue in comparison with different benign and malignant salivary gland tumors. The findings indicate that hBD-1 seems to be shifted from the cytoplasm to nucleus of the tumor cells in malignant salivary gland tumors and the hBD-1 might play an important role in the malignant progression of salivary gland tumors. The study seems interesting work. However, before publication, several revisions are suggested. The following are specific comments on basic concepts, which need to be addressed prior to publication of this manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1. It may be difficult to obtain clinical samples of malignant salivary gland tumor. It is desirable to increase the number of the cases of the immunohistochemistry if it can be obtained in a clinical specimen.

2. If you extracted the RNA of the clinical specimens, you had better confirm the expression of the hBD-1 gene in malignant salivary gland tumors in RT-PCR or real-time RT-PCR.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. You should refer to Instructions for BMC Cancer authors (http://www.biomedcentral.com/bmccancer/ifora/#defaulttype) and must reconstitute an article.

   - Abstract section is deleted.
   - Please change it in a Background section not an Introduction section.
   - Please change it in a Methods section not a Materials and Methods section.
   - Conclusions section is deleted.
   - Competing interests section is deleted.
   - Authors' contributions section is deleted.

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: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.