Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 4 March 2008

**Reviewer:** Yoshihiro Abiko

**Reviewer's report:**

Reviewer's report This manuscript describes that localization of hBD-1 is shifted from the cytoplasm to the nucleus of the tumour cells in malignant salivary gland tumours. This is the first report to state that malignant tumour cells shows nuclear localization of hBD-1. This finding may be related to a recent interesting report which says that hBD-1 is a tumour suppressor gene, as the authors state. Although it is very interesting information, the data may not be highly reliable.

**Major:**

As the authors state in line 4 of the discussion section, the hBD-1 seems to be shifted to the nucleus. This finding is a key in this article. This data, however, may be lacking objectivity.

The authors should demonstrate show much more reliable data using other analyses so that the authors do not have to use the phrase "seems to be"

In figure 1, some of the nuclei show positive staining of hBD-1 even in the healthy salivary ducts. The nuclear staining may not only be in the salivary tumour but also in the healthy salivary gland. How many cells do show nuclear localization of hBD-1 in the malignant salivary tumours?

Do all cells show nuclear localization of hBD-1 in the tumour? The authors should show what percentage of nuclear localization is in the tumours.

**Others:**

1. Authors observed immunohistochemical staining for p53 as a tumour suppressor gene. In this case, the wild-type of p53 must be detected.

However, immunohistochemical staining for p53 usually shows mutant-type of p53, because the half-life of wild-type p53 protein is too short to detect.

The positive staining for p53 probably shows the mutant-type of p53 but not the wild-type.

The authors most likely confused mutant type with wild type. 2. line12, 13 in the second page of Discussion

It is too much speculation to say that hBD-1 might play an
important role in the malignant progression of salivary gland tumours. 3. Is there no need to have an abstract or summary at the beginning?

Minor:
Table 1. The carcinosarcoma must be carcinosarcoma. The oncocytoma must be oncocytoma.

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.