Reviewer's report

**Title:** Prognostic significance of Hypoxia-Inducible Factor 1 alpha (HIF-1α) expression in advanced poorly differentiated serous ovarian cancer: an immunohistochemical study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 20 February 2008

**Reviewer:** Pauline Athanassiadou

**Reviewer's report:**

**General comments**

The authors present an interesting and well-founded study with regard to the prognostic significance of hypoxia-inducible factor 1α (HIF-1α), in ovarian cancer. This molecule is currently under intense investigation for its prognostic as well as its therapeutic value in several forms of cancer, including ovarian carcinoma.

**Minor essential comments for revision**

**Title page:** Since the material of this study included not only advanced stage but also early stage and borderline carcinomas, the article title should be changed to: "Prognostic significance of hypoxia-inducible factor 1α (HIF-1α) expression in serous ovarian cancer: an immunohistochemical study."

**Abstract:** The abstract is overwordy and should be shortened.

**Materials and Methods:** There is some confusion with regard to the studied material. Although the authors initially mention that 110 neoplastic samples (along with 20 benign cases) were included in their study, they subsequently classify them to 23 stage I, 55 stage III and 22 borderline cases (Total: 100 cases). The authors should explain this.

**Discussion:** In the first two sentences of the discussion section the authors summarize some previous findings. However, the relative references are lacking and should be provided.

Finally the manuscript should be carefully screened for some grammatical errors, such as the use of comma before the beginning of a new sentence in the second paragraph, line 3rd of page 14 or the word "descriptionon" in page 8, line 10th.

-Accept after minor essential revisions

**What next?:** Accept after minor essential revisions