Reviewer's report

Title: mRNA expression of the DNA replication-initiation proteins in epithelial dysplasia and squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue

Version: 1 Date: 3 September 2008

Reviewer: Adel El-Naggar

Reviewer's report:

Major issues:
A). The manuscript represents a study of the mRNA expression of DNA replication-related proteins in premalignant and malignant squamous tongue lesions.
A basic premise in investigating a new biomarker(s) is to either:
1) establish its independence and/or the interdependence from conventional parameters.
2) or validate its use in a prospective trials or study.
None of these principles are addressed in this study. The study therefore failed to provide evidence for the potential advantage of using these proteins to complement and/or to substitute for the traditional pathologic evaluation of these lesions.

B) The nature and quality of archival tissue used. It appears that no microdissection was performed in this study. Accordingly, the source of RNA may not entirely reflect the epithelial natures of these lesions.

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 have no competing interest in this study.