Reviewer's report

Title: Collagen mRNA levels changes during development of colorectal cancer

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2009

Reviewer: Takumi Ochiai

Reviewer's report:

This is the first report about the quantitatively mRNA levels of type IV collagen and type VII collagen in normal tissue, adenoma and colorectal cancer tissue.

Regrettably, this manuscript need to be polished, especially, methods and result parts

Major Compulsory Revisions

p2 L19: This down-regulation coincides with acquisition of invasive properties. This is your opinion, thus, this sentence should not belong under results category.

p2 L21: Our results show that…… in dysplastic tissue.

In the discussion part, you used “suggest”, thus you should “suggest” in abstract part, too. The result in this paper indicates the possibility.

P6 L17-19: “To determine the…..collagen (Fig.1).” should belong under methods category.

P7 L16-17: “The higher level….invasive growth properties.” should belong under discussion category.

P7 L24-26: “The level of…… acquisition of invasive properties.” should belong under discussion category.

P8 L4-5: “The down-regulation …..invasive growth properties.” should belong under discussion category.

P8 L10-12: “The increase in ……mRNA level described above.” should belong under discussion category.

P8 L13-17: “The colorectal cancer …….different Dukes groups.”

There are no descriptions about an evaluation of the Dukes groups in methods part.

Minor Essential Revisions

p7 L22: lover? => lower

Discretionary Revisions

Title is “Collagen mRNA levels changes during development of colorectal
cancer”. However, collagen mRNA levels changes were evaluated in comparison between adenomas and colorectal cancer. You should use “during colorectal cancer carcinogenesis”.

Results part and Table 2 should be clarified more.

Fig 1.: H.E. stain should be shown.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.