Reviewer’s report

Title: The -271 G>A polymorphism of kinase insert domain-containing receptor gene regulate the gene’s transcriptional level in the patients with non-small cell lung cancer

Version: 1 Date: 19 January 2009

Reviewer: Rodney J. Scott

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:

For accurate frequency estimates of the -271 G>A KDR polymorphism the authors must use a local population based sample set of at least 200 healthy controls. It is not good enough to examine a website and make inferences from it. This will provide better information about the importance of this polymorphism in relation to lung cancer progression.

The clinical features comparison made in Table 1 is incorrect. The comparison is between patients with the AA genotype against the GA/GG genotype - this means that there are for example 59% males with the AA group against 62% males with the GA/GG genotypes. This must be re-calculated for the entire table. Differences between the groups should then be determined using Fishers exact test.

The observation that there is no difference in the protein levels of the KDR protein irrespective of the mRNA levels must be explained further. The discrepancy between the finding could be due to more efficient clearance of the mRNA species (ie mRNA degradation) rather than the polymorphism being related to the promoter activity of the gene.

Minor Essential Revisions

The english language requires editorial improvement throughout the manuscript.

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: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.