Reviewer's report

Title: Induction of protective and therapeutic anti-pancreatic cancer immunity using a reconstructed MUC1 DNA vaccine

Version: 1 Date: 19 March 2009

Reviewer: Bo Zhu

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Major Compulsory Revisions

In the experiments of tumor protection, in the materials and methods the authors divided three groups including PBS, empty plasmid pcDNA3.1 and pcDNA3.1-VNTR, and then challenged by panc02-MUC1 tumor cells after vaccination. However, in Fig.3 and Fig.4 there is four groups including PBS, empty plasmid pcDNA3.1, pcDNA3.1-VNTR and pcDNA3.1-VNTR-panc02. It is confusing! Does pcDNA3.1-VNTR-panc02 mean pcDNA3.1-VNTR vaccination and panc02 tumor cell challengement?

In the experiments of tumor therapy, in the materials and methods they used both panc02 and panc02-MUC1 tumor cells to make tumor model, and they vaccinated with PBS, empty plasmid pcDNA3.1, pcDNA3.1-VNTR for these two groups of tumor-bearing mice individually. But in Fig.7 and Fig.8, they express the results of four groups of PBS, empty plasmid pcDNA3.1, pcDNA3.1-VNTR and pcDNA3.1-VNTR-panc02. It is confusing as well! As referee understand, they use panc02-bearing model to prove the specificity of MUC1 for the vaccination. The should show the results of panc02 and panc02-MUC1-bearing mice individually.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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