Reviewer's report

Title: Molecular characterization of EGFR, PDGFRA and VEGFR-2 in cervical adenosquamous carcinoma

Version: 1  Date: 29 January 2009

Reviewer: Deborah Citrin

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a study of the characterization of EGFR, PDGFRA, and VEGFR-2 in cervical adenosquamous carcinoma. They report on 30 cases for which they have both tissue and clinical data. Expression of EGFR, PDGFRA, and VEGFR2 were evaluated by immunohistochemistry. Screening for EGFR and PDGFRA mutations was performed with PCR and SSCP. Expression of EGFR was found in many cases with only silent mutations noted. PDGFRA was positive in all cases with only silent mutations noted. VEGFR2 was found in most cases and was associated with a lack of metastases. The implications and limitations of these findings are discussed in detail the discussion. The references are appropriate. The figures, tables and legends are clear.

Major compulsory revisions:
1) None

Minor Essential Revisions
2) Please provide information regarding whether clinical data was gleaned from retrospective chart review or from a prospective database as this would potentially impact the quality of the clinical data
3) Please provide information regarding median follow up of these patients and whether any patients were lost to follow up as clinical outcome (recurrence) is included as an outcome
4) Please clarify why PDGFRA immunohistochemistry was not possible in all cases (was tissue limiting)?
5) Table 3. Please correct comma to a period under p value for age and EGFR positive.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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