Reviewer's report

Title: Prognostic significance of human Mammaglobin B expression in epithelial ovarian cancer

Version: 1 Date: 16 April 2009

Reviewer: Christer Borgfeldt

Reviewer's report:

Comments to Manuscript
Prognostic significance of human Mammaglobin B expression in epithelial ovarian cancer

The study has an interesting topic but the paper has some major problems.

Was lymph node dissection performed in all cases of stage I disease?
Early ovarian cancer is in general stage I disease not stage II.
Were all immuno-histochemically stained slides stained in the same batch?
The endpoints cancer relapse and cancer progression are in general considered the same endpoints since relapse of ovarian cancer is not a curable disease. Use just one of these endpoints! How often were the patients scheduled for follow up?
Was increased value of CA 125 used as marker of progression?
The CA 125 Threshold = 200 U/ml for pre-menopausal patients & Threshold = 35 U/ml for post-menopausal patients. Why not the median value of CA125? Why a CA 125 threshold 200 U/ml for pre-menopausal patients?
To evaluate the effect of MGB-2 mRNA expression on prognosis and not choosing the median value imposes going “fishing” for the best value. Use the median value!

In multivariate models the number of events should be at least 10 for each included parameter. In this paper the events analysing overall survival were 37 and the included parameters in the multivariate model were eight.

In the figures the number of events should be expressed and the patients at risk showed at the marked time points (months).

It would be very interesting to have some thoughts about the explanation for the biological mechanism linking high MGB-2 expression to reduced risk of recurrence.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.