Reviewer's report

Title: Malignant transformation of oral potentially malignant disorders: a retrospective cohort study

Version: 3 Date: 13 December 2008

Reviewer: Jesper Reibel

Reviewer's report:

The aims of this manuscript is indeed interesting and the question posed by the authors is well defined. However, there are massive problems with references in the text to the reference list why I cannot review the manuscript as it is, i.e. I cannot check if the diagnostic criteria used are sound etc. etc.

A few comments from a quick browse through the manuscript:
1. Background, last paragraph: Something is missing or surplus in line 2 and 3.
2. A total of 152 subjects were included. Are these subjects selected in some way or do they represent successive patients in the period 1986-2004? Inclusion criteria?
3. Discussion, line 4 from start "epithetial" should be "epithelial"
4. Discussion, last paragraph: references in the text are not numbered.
5. Author's contribution: Initial "TH" does not appear in the author list.

However, as stated above I cannot review the manuscript in any detail due to the reference errors.

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, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'