Reviewer's report

Title: Expression and Prognostic Significance of THBS1, Cyr61 and CTGF in Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Version: 1 Date: 7 February 2009

Reviewer: Ahmad Faried

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Title: Expression and Prognostic Significance of THBS1, Cyr61 and CTGF in Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Zhou ZQ et al., attempt to demonstrate that THBS1, Cyr61 and CTGF are useful marker for esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) diagnosis and could predict the patients prognosis.

This manuscript is well written and rather straight forward. It does provide important data concerning the useful of ESCC diagnosis. The authors should address the following issues to improve the manuscript:

Major comments are detailed below:

1. The author should add and discuss the review article by Kuwano H., et al (Surg Today 2005; 35: 7-18) in which reviewing the TGF##/Smad proteins signaling pathways in ESCC.

2. For Western blot (WB) results, how many patients sample subjected in this study? Where is the densitometric quantification result (the range of normal and tumor values, statistical differences normal vs tumor, etc)? CTGF and Cyr61 molecular weight? How about THBS1 WB results?

3. In discussions, could the authors speculate at their best what is the mechanism of discrepancy between their study and others (CTGF and THBS1)? Not only stated that there is diverse role in the tumorigenesis.

Minor comments:

1. In the material methods part is incomplete and need to be clarified. For example; how did the author get consent from all the patients, what the eligibility of the patients include in this study?

2. The author should change word: western blot # Western blot (since this is a person’s name) in the whole manuscript.

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