Reviewer's report

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

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 8 February 2009

**Reviewer:** Jan Brabender

**Reviewer's report:**

1. The authors do not specify the surgical procedures that were performed on the patients. Was complete tumor resection R0 achieved in all patients?

2. What were the inclusion criteria? Were all patients from 1997-2006 included in the study? This needs to be clarified.

3. How were the patients treated besides surgery? Most of the patients had a locally advanced tumor stage (T3). Neoadjuvant therapy is usually recommended in these patients. Was neoadjuvant therapy applied to those patients? This could change the expression status in the resected specimen. Was the study population treated uniformly? Unless this is the case, the prognostic conclusions have to be drawn very carefully.

4. No information is given concerning tumor stage and prognosis. Unless the authors can provide this information for the study population, the conclusion of the present are not validated.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests'