Reviewer's report

**Title:** Balanced re-arrangement of chromosomes 5 and 17 points to a role for sex steroid hormones and carbonic anhydrase-related protein X in chondroblastoma pathogenesis

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 5 August 2009

**Reviewer:** Pierre Aman

**Reviewer's report:**

The manuscript reports cytogenetic and molecular genetic findings in the rare tumor type chondroblastoma. In the present manuscript the authors report a case with a t(5;17), maps the breakpoints and identify nearby genes. The two genes may be of significance for tumor development but this is not clearly demonstrated and their involvement remains hypothetical. Interphase FISH analysis and IHC expression analysis of the candidate genes is studied in 14 more cases. In addition, the authors report that the tumor specific translocation is not present in the giant cells that are typical for chondroblastomas. This important finding suggest that the giant are not of the malignant clone but most likely of reactive cells.

The language is in som parts of the manuscript very bad and the message hard to understand.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interest´s