Reviewer's report

Title: Expression of RECK and matrix metalloprotease-2 in ameloblastoma and their relevance

Version: 1 Date: 16 September 2009

Reviewer: Buelent Polat

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. There are many spelling mistakes throughout the text. Please review the paper especially for these errors (e.g. #-acting, KOCT, clinical or metalloproteinase in your manuscript title).

2. Please check the figures in table 2 on page 16: the numbers for RECK expression levels in primary AB and recurrent AB seem to be inverted, since you stated that the relative expression level was significantly lower in recurrent AB on page 9.

3. There are some errors on page 8 in the relative figures for positive (“+” and “++”) protein expression rates both for RECK and MMP-2 (e.g. in ameloblastoma it should be 56.5% instead of 65% for RECK and 84.06% instead of 87.05% for MMP-2 if one uses the data given in table 1). Also check the corresponding numbers in the abstract.

4. Page 6: RT-PCR primers. Did you mean RECK and MMP-2 instead of MMP-14?

Discretionary Revisions:

1. Consider to insert an additional table for your RT-PCR primer pairs and to delete them in the materials section for a better readability

2. You could show a negative correlation between RECK and MMP-2 in protein expression levels but not in mRNA. So you hypothesize that there must be some inhibition on a post-transcriptional level. Is there data which can explain how this inhibition is mediated, e.g. by protein degradation or direct interaction? Did you perform additional experiments like western blot or ELISA for detecting cellular protein levels?

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests