Reviewer's report

Title: Alveolar epithelial cells undergo epithelial-mesenchymal transition in acute interstitial pneumonia: a case report

Version: 1  Date: 7 December 2013

Reviewer: Hiroshi Iwasaki

Reviewer's report:

1. The authors reported that alveolar epithelial cells undergo epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) in a case of acute interstitial pneumonia (AIP). They stated that this is the first report of alveolar epithelial cells transforming into myofibroblasts in the lung tissue with AIP. However, EMT in the interstitial pneumonia has been demonstrated by several investigators. By using a quantitative immunohistochemical analysis and double immunostaining, Harada et al (2010) demonstrated EMT of alveolar epithelial cells during pulmonary fibrogenesis.

2. Page 7, line 2-3: … several filaments in the cytoplasm. What kind of filaments exist in the cytoplasm? The authors should specify the type of intracytoplasmic filaments: intermediate (10-nanometer) filaments, actin microfilaments, or both?

3. Page 8, line 14: What means “systemic diseases”? The authors should explain more specific name or condition.

4. Page 8, line 21: What means NAIP? A full name should be described.

5. The discussion (conclusion) is too long and redundant. Please highlight the essential point of this study.

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.