Reviewer's report

Title: Type-selective muscular degeneration promotes infiltrative growth of intramuscular lipoma

Version: 2 Date: 26 April 2004

Reviewer: masanori Ban

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

1: The abstract is not understandable. It needs more information.

2: Some cases revealing muscle atrophy have been reported. I think this must be background. These reports should be quoted.

3: The objective of the study is to investigate the association between lipomatous cell growth and surrounding muscular degeneration in intramuscular lipomas. This must be described next to background. The names of antibodies do not need to be described in "Background."

4: It is important to compare the infiltrating and circumscribed types. Perhaps 11 cases of infiltrating type and 6 cases of circumscribed type were immunohistochemically examined. Please describe it simply in "Materials and methods." Describe about the 17 cases not about 22 cases.

5: Please explain what react to each antibody briefly in "Materials and methods."

6: The detailed explanation of superficial lipomas is unnecessary in "Discussion."

7: Line 5 to 7 in page 9 (Fat cell overgrowth ............) need references.

8: Some references are required to explain the type-selective muscular degeneration in neurogenic and myogenic disorders.

9: Were there any patients with neurogenic or myogenic disorders to cause systemic symptoms?

10: Last line in page 10 to first line in page 11(such a case .....type-selectivity) need references, if possible.

11: The authors should discuss about the possibility that infiltrating lipomas cause muscle atrophy of disuse. In such cases, type-selectivity degeneration may occur.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None