Reviewer's report

**Title:** Decreased expression of RBM3 correlates with tumour progression and poor prognosis in urothelial bladder cancer

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 26 February 2013

**Reviewer:** Dermot Leahy

**Reviewer's report:**

This manuscript describes a study of a large cohort of patients with urothelial bladder cancer. The authors found that decreased expression of RBM3 is associated with tumour progression and poor prognosis.

Overall, this paper is well written with objectives, methodology and results clearly described. The authors appear to have considerable expertise in this area, having published previously on the significance of RBM3 in various other cancers.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**

However, there appears to be a major problem with the references which needs to be resolved before the "Discussion" can be properly reviewed.

1. References 14, 15 and 16 are cited in relation to RBM3 in other cancer forms, but these three references deal with VEGF, Bcl-2 and the Wnt pathway in colorectal cancer.
2. Reference 14 is cited as describing the upregulation of RBM3 in neoplastic compared to normal tissue, but this reference deals with VEGF in colorectal cancer.
3. Reference 18 is cited to support the idea that urothelial bladder cancer is a recurrent disease but the reference is actually a Wnt signalling review.
4. References 23–26 are cited in relation to platinum-based chemotherapy of bladder cancer, but in fact all deal with Wnt/beta-catenin in colorectal cancer.

**Discretionary Revisions**

1. The second sentence of “Results” states that no heterogeneity in RBM3 expression was seen between duplicate TMA cores. Were any full face sections stained to further check for heterogeneity? Was heterogeneity of expression seen in any of the tumour types in previous studies?
2. In the “Authors’ Contributions”, KJ is mentioned twice but KB is not mentioned.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable
**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.