Reviewer's report

Title: Detection of human papillomavirus DNA and p53 codon 72 polymorphism in prostate carcinomas of patients from Argentina

Version: 1 Date: 15 June 2005

Reviewer: Alejandro M. Garcia-Carranca

Reviewer's report:

General The manuscript describes an analysis of prostate carcinomas and hyperplasic samples of patients from Argentina for the presence of HPV DNA and the p523 codon 72 polymorphism. The literature is well covered and experiments, in particular to determine p53 polymorphisms are well conducted. The results are of interest to those closely related to the field.

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

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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)

The authors should clearly indicate what measures (all) were taken to avoid contamination of the PCR assays and what controls they used. They could discuss more the association between HPV positivity and a subset of prostate cancers.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

More details could be expected for the determination of HPV DNA in these samples. In particular, the authors could clarify why they have ended up with analysis of only 30 hyperplasic biopsies from the 53 they originally mentioned. They could also discuss why they have not made consensus amplifications and then, type with specific probes. They could also explain what is the nature of the doublet seen in figure 1 and coming from consensus amplifications with MY09/11?

What next?: Accept after minor essential 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: I declare that I have no competing interests