Reviewer's report

Title: Matrix-metalloproteinases-1, -2, -3, -9, their inhibitors TIMP-1, -2, and the MMP1/TIMP1-complex in blood plasma as markers for transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder

Version: 3 Date: 22 December 2005

Reviewer: Hiro-omi Kanayama

Reviewer’s report:

General
It is interesting to evaluate blood levels of MMPs and TIMPs, and many investigators evaluated MMPs in blood levels.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
1) The title seems to be somewhat abstract. You should make more concrete one from your results.
2) ROC-curves you mentioned in Results section are missing. You should show how MMP9, TIMP1, TIMP2 increase the diagnostic value, compared with MMP-2 alone.
3) Taking 45% sensitivity of diagnostic value into account, you cannot conclude MMP2 as a statistically significant marker in blood plasma as you mentioned in Abstract or Conclusion section. You should change the expression of these sentences.
4) How do you speculate on the relationship between the expression levels of MMP2, 9 and TIMP1,2 in blood plasma from a viewpoint of tumor marker? You should mention a little more about it in the Discussion section.

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

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: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes